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Japan

Takeovers of U.S. Firms Drop 'by 68 Percent'

OW1601041592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 15 (KYODO)—Japanese corporate mergers and acquisitions in the United States fell by 68 percent in dollar terms in 1991, while the number of deals transacted declined by 39 percent, according to a report issued Wednesday by a business research group.

The report by the Ulmer Brothers Research Institute attributed the decline to corporate difficulties in raising funds because of a weak stock market and higher interest rates, to greater prudence in investment decisions following recent acquisitions that had gone sour, and to diversification to Asia and Europe.

Dollar volume, 3.8 billion dollars in 1991 compared with 11.9 billion dollars in 1990, also declined because there were fewer "mega-deals," the report from the New York-based institute said.

Matsushita Electrical Industrial Co.'s acquisition of MCA Inc. accounted for 53 percent of the dollar volume in 1990.

The semiconductor and chemical industries remained preferred areas for merger and acquisition activity, but in 1991, the diversified, industrial, and computer sectors displaced the 1990 preferred sectors of finance, peripherals, and autos, the report said.

U.S. acquisitions continued to remain limited in Japan in 1991, reaching 417 million dollars on 12 deals, up from 3.7 million dollars on four deals in 1990, the report said.

Japanese acquisitions in Europe and the Pacific basin were down in dollar terms compared with 1990 levels, even though the number of deals was slightly up from 70 to 72 in Europe, and remained the same at 31 in the Pacific basin.

According to the report, dollar volume in Europe declined from 3.9 billion to 1.9 billion dollars between 1990 and 1991, while in the Pacific basin volume fell from 1.7 billion to 322 million dollars during the same time period.

Former Honda Chief on U.S. Industry's Efforts

OW1601040592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0327 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Washington, Jan. 15 (KYODO)—The former chairman of Honda Motor Co. on Wednesday criticized the U.S. auto industry for not trying hard enough to boost its sales in Japan.

In a speech to the Japan-America Society, Hideo Sugiura referred to the announcement by Japanese auto manufacturers that they would expand their purchases of U.S.-made cars and parts.

The purchases, he said, may have some effect from a short-term point of view but to resolve the friction between Japan and the United States, it is necessary to set up a structure which enables both nations' industries to communicate directly.

Sugiura also called for long-term strategy in this regard.

During U.S President George Bush's stay in Japan early this month, Japanese car manufacturers set specific targets for importing U.S.-made vehicles and purchasing automobile parts.

The target for automobile part imports was set at 19 billion dollars in fiscal 1994, more than double the fiscal 1990 level.

Sugiura said the U.S. auto industry has neglected to improve its competitiveness after Japan started voluntary restraint of car exports to the U.S. market in 1981.

The U.S. auto industry only pursued one-time profits by raising prices, he said.

U.S. auto manufacturers should do more on their own initiative, because Japan's commitment, embodied in the "global partnership plan of action" adopted by Bush and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa after their summit meeting early this month, "might not be achieved unless both sides make every effort," Sugiura said.

Disappointment With U.S. Executives Expressed

OW1601104692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 16 KYODO—Nissan Motor Co. President Yutaka Kume expressed strong disappointment with U.S. auto company executives Thursday, saying they should face up to their own problems instead of railing against Japan.

Speaking at a press conference in Osaka, Kume said he hopes U.S. auto executives' criticism of Japan is not aimed at hiding their own "shortcomings."

Top executives of the "big three" U.S. automakers, after returning home from U.S. President George Bush's trade mission to Japan last week, have criticized the intention of Japanese automakers to buy more American cars to help reduce the trade imbalance in the auto sector.

"If the U.S. side does not appreciate (such efforts), there will only be disappointment on the Japanese side," Kume said in reference to plans announced by Japan's five major automakers to "voluntarily" buy more U.S. autos and auto parts.

Kume reiterated that these plans are not binding, but merely "targets," saying they do not represent "an agreement" between Japan and the United States.

"Both Japan and the U.S. should face reality," Kume said, alluding to the lack of U.S. efforts to sell cars in Japan.

Kume also noted that Nissan is willing to negotiate with Mazda Motor Corp. on the former's plan to sell Ford cars, currently being sold by Mazda, in line with a plan announced during Bush's trip to help Ford Motor Co. increase its sales in Japan.

Nissan and Ford now run a joint venture in the U.S. to produce minivans, but have no sales relationship in Japan.

Simpler Insurance Policy Approval Process Eyed

OW1601113292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance [MOF] intends to review approval procedures for life and nonlife insurance policies and other products with an eye toward vast simplification of the procedures, MOF sources said Thursday.

The ministry also plans to review a nonlife insurers' group system which calculates insurance premiums.

Details will be worked out later in deliberations at a general working group of the insurance council, an advisory panel for the ministry.

The ministry is considering introduction of a notification system to replace the approval system for some insurance policies.

Reexamination of the approval system was prompted by calls made by the United States for liberalization of the service trade during service-sector talks of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Results of the review are likely to spur the sale of a variety of insurance policies, including those with a discounted premium, the sources said.

Prime Minister Miyazawa Leaves for Seoul 16 Jan

OW1601005292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0046 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Thursday morning for a three-day official visit to South Korea to establish "future-oriented bilateral ties."

In his first overseas trip since becoming prime minister in November, Miyazawa is to hold two rounds of talks with South Korean President No Tae-u on Thursday and Friday.

The two leaders plan a joint press conference Friday morning after the meetings.

Miyazawa is scheduled to deliver a major policy speech Friday afternoon at the National Assembly, becoming the first Japanese prime minister to do so.

DPRK Envoy Criticizes Miyazawa's Seoul Visit

OW1601014792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0134 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Geneva, Jan. 16 (KYODO)—A North Korean envoy on Wednesday blasted Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's official visit to Seoul as "another manifestation of Japanese policy which is one-sided toward South Korea."

In an interview with KYODO News Service, Li Chol, ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and other international organizations, said it is not enough for Tokyo to apologize only to South Korea for the wartime forced prostitution of Korean women.

Saying that women born in present-day South Korea were not the only ones forced to be "comfort women," Li said, "Japan should make an overall apology toward the Korean nation for what they have done against the Korean population during its occupation (of the Korean peninsula)."

The Tokyo government, which colonized Korea from 1910 to 1945, has in recent days acknowledged the Japanese Imperial Army's long-suspected role in forcing Korean and other Asian women to work in military brothels during World War II.

On stalled normalization talks between Japan and North Korea, Li predicted Tokyo would facilitate the talks, saying Pyongyang has met Japanese preconditions by pledging to sign an accord allowing international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Pyongyang will sign the nuclear safeguards accord late this month and ratify it at the earliest opportunity, the North Korean ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna said last week.

North Korea signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985 but has refused to open its nuclear facilities, including the Yongbyon Plant 88 kilometers north of Pyongyang, which Washington and Seoul say is close to producing a nuclear weapon.

DPRK Included in Apology to 'Comfort Women'

OW1601125192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Japanese Government apologies to Korean women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II covers women from both North and South Korea, a senior government official said Thursday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, was apparently responding to North Korea's demand that Japan should apologize for its wrongs against all of Korea.

The official said the government's apologies regarding the so-called "comfort women" are not limited to South Korea, no matter whether Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato was thinking of North Korea when he announced a statement of government apologies.

Kato said in the statement released Monday, "I cannot help feeling acutely distressed when I listen to those who speak of the very painful experience of the comfort women from the Korean peninsula."

"I wish once again to express our sincere apologies and remorse to all those who, recruited as comfort women for the army, underwent indescribable suffering," the statement said.

It was not clear whether Kato's statement meant women from the north since it said "the Government of Japan will firmly uphold its position as a nation dedicated to peace and will strive to build a new Japan-Republic of Korea (South Korea) relationship oriented to the future."

North Korea's envoy to United Nations institutions in Geneva criticized the Japanese statement as an apology only to South Korean women and said Japan should apologize for its wrongdoing to both North and South Korea.

Some 100,000 to 200,000 teenage girls and young women, mostly from Korea then under Japanese rule, were allegedly forced to provide sex to frontline Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Sixth Talks With DPRK Planned for Beijing

SK1601004492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Report from Tokyo-based correspondent Chon Yong-uk]

[Text] The sixth round of talks for the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan will be held in Beijing, China, on 30 and 31 January.

A source from the Japanese Foreign Ministry noted that since North Korea expressed its will to sign the International Atomic Energy Agency treaty, the upcoming talks are expected to enter the second stage and that progress will be made in the economic field regarding the compensation issue for the period of Japanese colonialism.

In particular, the Japanese Government evaluated that North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspection and the signing of the North-South agreement are construed to be acceptance of part of the conditions demanded by Japan in the past and that the time has come for Japan to review measures to cope with such a new situation. Thus, the Japanese Government showed a forward-looking attitude.

Tokyo To 'Make Every Effort' for PKO Bill

OW1601070492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will make every effort to pass a bill that would allow the dispatch of Japanese troops overseas to join United Nations peacekeeping operations, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Thursday.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting, Kato said the bill will be discussed in the ordinary Diet session due to start January 24.

Kato said it is necessary for Japan to dispatch Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to assist U.N. missions to make a greater contribution to forging a new international order.

He said, "Japan must do its utmost to make personnel contribution to peace and security in the post-cold war era within the limits of the war-renouncing Japanese Constitution."

Touching on the arrest of former State Minister Fumio Abe, a former member of the Miyazawa faction, Kato said lawmakers should find a way to engage in politics without dubious contributions.

Prosecutors arrested Abe on Monday on suspicion of taking bribes from Kyowa Corp., a now bankrupt steel frame maker at the center of the cash-for-favors scandal.

Tokyo Plans To Offer CIS $50 Million in Aid

OW1601114292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1132 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Japan will extend 50 million dollars in grant-in-aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as part of international humanitarian assistance to the former Soviet Union republics, government sources said Thursday.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will formally announce the aid at an international conference on assistance to the CIS scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday in Washington.

Some 50 countries are scheduled to attend the meeting, proposed by U.S. President George Bush last December, to discuss efficient ways to prevent the former Soviet Union from plunging into economic, social, and ethnic turmoil similar to that in Yugoslavia.

According to the preliminary talks for the conference held at the State Department in Washington last week,

five panels will be set up to facilitate effective assistance to the CIS. Japan will co-chair the two panels covering medical and technical aid.

Japan has already disbursed 1 billion yen in grant-in-aid and decided to offer 2.5 billion dollars worth of loans to the Soviet Union.

The 2.5 billion dollar loan, however, has not been handed over due to confusion in the former Soviet receiving system.

The additional 50 million dollar aid, which is to be provided mainly by the form of food and medical supplies, will be directed to the far eastern district, including Sakhalin.

Tokyo hopes that the additional aid will help create a favorable atmosphere for the possible return of four islands occupied by Soviet troops at the end of World War II, the sources said. The Sakhalin administration has jurisdiction over the four islands located off eastern Hokkaido.

Ex-Im Bank To Begin CIS Emergency Food Aid

OW1601130592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan hopes to begin emergency food and medical assistance to the former Soviet Union as soon as recipients are named and debts are guaranteed, President Mitsuhide Yamaguchi of the bank said Thursday.

Yamaguchi said he hoped talks will move ahead between Japan and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and by financial authorities of the group of seven (G-7) major industrialized countries at their January 25 meeting.

The 100 million dollar assistance was decided at the end of 1990, but its extension has been postponed due to the political instabilities and collapse of the former Soviet Union.

On the credit line system mentioned in the action plan agreed between Japan and the United States last week to promote Japan's import activities, Yamaguchi said the project mainly targets companies that plan to increase their U.S. imports by 10 percent or more from a year before.

The bank will provide loans to such companies within a certain framework for a maximum of five years, he said, but the system is a tentative measure which will be effective for two years beginning next month.

The bank said Thursday it will open an office in Moscow by next fall. It will be the bank's 17th overseas branch, where two officials will work to ensure financial assistance to the CIS goes smoothly.

Yamaguchi also referred to the bank's potential third loan to China for developing natural resources, hoping the loan will be given this fiscal year. The bank plans to send a research group to China by summer.

French Minister Arrives 'To Discuss' G-7, CIS

OW1601111992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Pierre Beregovoy, French minister for the economy, finance, and the budget, arrived in Japan Thursday to meet with Japanese leaders on possible actions to halt the slowdown of the global economy and to invite more Japanese investment in France.

Beregovoy will meet with Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata Friday to discuss policies related to the January 25 meeting of top financial authorities of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations, Japanese Government officials said.

Hata hopes to win French cooperation in stimulating the world economy, the officials said. Some observers say France is seen as being cooperative because it is bothered with less inflationary pressure than is Germany.

The ministers also are expected to discuss possible assistance to the former Soviet Union—the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS].

Beregovoy will also meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and business leaders during his six-day stay.

Opposes German Interest Rates

OW1601130092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Pierre Beregovoy, French minister for the economy, finance, and the budget, criticized Germany Thursday for its high interest rate policy, saying the world now needs economic growth, and not efforts to contain inflation.

The minister, who arrived in Tokyo earlier Thursday, made the remarks in a meeting with Takeshi Noda, director general of Japan's Economic Planning Agency, government officials said.

Noda told Beregovoy that Japan is supporting efforts to stimulate the economy, as indicated by the fiscal 1992 budget that was approved by the cabinet last month, and the lower official discount rate, which was cut three times last year.

Beregovoy will meet Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Friday evening, where the ministers are expected to discuss policies concerning the January 25 meeting of financial authorities from the Group of Seven industrialized nations in Washington.

The two ministers also will discuss possible assistance to the former Soviet Union—the Commonwealth of Independent States.

During his six-day stay, Beregovoy will also meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and business leaders.

Mazda To Buy Auto Parts From Firm in Norway

OW1601050392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 (KYODO)—Mazda Motor Corp. will purchase aluminum bumper reinforcements from the Norwegian auto parts maker, Raufoss A/S, for use in its new RX-7 line of cars, company officials said Thursday.

The bumper reinforcements were jointly developed by Mazda and Raufoss using Mazda's "design-in" system, which it has been promoting for the last two to three years to procure parts from overseas suppliers, the officials said.

"Design-in" is the term used when auto parts suppliers cooperate with the auto manufacturer's design team from the very initial stages of vehicle development, often two to three years prior to the marketing of the vehicle.

Currently, Mazda has design-in arrangements with 88 companies in the United States producing a total of 122 parts, and arrangements with eight companies in Europe for nine parts, the officials said.

By fiscal 1994, Mazda aims to double to 3.7 billion dollars the value of overseas-procured auto parts from the fiscal 1990 level of 1.8 billion dollars, they said.

Mazda is the first Japanese auto manufacturer to purchase auto parts from Norway for mass production vehicles, the officials added.

12% of Firms Said Hiring Foreigner Graduates

OW1601123392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Twelve percent of Japanese companies are employing foreigners who have graduated from Japanese universities or graduate schools, according to a private survey released Thursday.

The survey was conducted by Recruit Research Co. last August and September on 9,845 companies with 300 employees or more, to which 17.4 percent responded. Recruit said the average response to this kind of survey is 8 percent.

It also found that 24.2 percent of the respondents were either going to continue recruiting foreign students studying in Japan or were considering to do so in the future.

Of responding companies with employees of 5,000 and over, 47.5 percent were employing foreigner graduates. Over 70 percent of the firms treated the foreigners as official employees, not as part-timers.

More than 80 percent of the respondents described such employment as effective. Some attributed it to the foreign employees' language abilities, while others said it is simply their eminence as employees.

Many firms appreciated their non-Japanese traits, such as their way of thinking.

Abe Said To Receive 50 Milllion Yen From Kyowa

OW1601012592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0119 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 (KYODO)—Former Cabinet Minister Fumio Abe, arrested on bribery charges Monday, received some 50 million yen from a steel-frame maker on behalf of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), informed sources said Thursday.

Abe, 69, former state minister and director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency, and the faction's secretary general from April to December last year, is known to have accepted a total of 500 million yen from the now bankrupt company, the sources said.

They said the total sum included about 50 million yen for the Miyazawa faction's election fund for the general election held February 18, 1990.

Abe demanded the donation from Goro Moriguchi, former vice president of Kyowa and now on trial for bribery charges, saying he needed to supply election funds to the faction, and received the money from late January to early February 1990, the sources said.

But the actual sum used for the faction's election fund is not known, they said.

Abe quit his post in the faction in December after the scandal came to light.

Prosecutors arrested Abe on Monday on suspicion of taking bribes, alleging that 80 million yen of the total he received was a bribe in connection with his duties as a cabinet minister.

Kyowa paid the money to gain Abe's influence and privileged access to official information on public works projects while he was the head of the Hokkaido Development Agency, prosecution sources said.

Abe also reportedly later asked Kyowa for a donation to help the Miyazawa faction win the LDP presidential election and thus the prime ministership.

Kunikichi Saito, a senior faction official, told reporters after Abe's arrest that the faction received 10 million yen in political donations from Abe in June 1990 but that the faction had not requested it from him.

Miyazawa Faction Official Acknowledges 'Trouble'

OW1601060292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0530 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's embattled faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party formally decided Thursday to

appoint House of Representatives member Yoshiro Hayashi as its secretary general.

Hayashi replaces Fumio Abe, who resigned the post in December and was arrested Monday in the Kyowa bribery scandal.

The faction made the decision at a general meeting on the day Miyazawa left for Seoul for a three-day visit to South Korea.

The secretary general's post has been vacant since mid-December when Abe, a former cabinet minister, resigned as the scandal began to unfold.

"The Miyazawa faction is in serious trouble," Hayashi, a bureaucrat-turned politician, acknowledged at the general meeting, calling on faction members to help the Miyazawa government ride out the current crisis.

Motomura Allegedly Received Funds From Kyowa

OW1601085492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The late Kazuki Motomura of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party had allegedly received 470 million yen from Kyowa Corp., a bankrupt steel frame maker, for his role in settling a dispute over construction of a factory in Kyushu, southern Japan, informed sources said Thursday.

Former Kyowa Vice President Goro Moriguchi allegedly handed the money to the late House of Councillors legislator.

Prosecutors arrested former State Minister Fumio Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on Monday on suspicion of taking bribes from Kyowa in the cash-for-favors scandal.

Opposition Urged Not To Stall Budget Debate

OW1601110792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) urged opposition parties Thursday not to swamp Diet deliberations on the fiscal 1992 budget with demands for clarification of a cash-for-favors bribery scandal.

Tamisuke Watanuki, in an interview with KYODO News Service, called for debate on the budget not to be excluded in favor of the topic of political ethics and reform. He said it is desirable both issues be debated in "parallel."

His comments came three days after opposition parties pledged to put priority in the coming regular Diet session on clarifying the alleged involvement of former state minister Fumio Abe in the scandal.

Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency under the 1989-1990 administration of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, was arrested Monday on suspicion of receiving some 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Corp., a now bankrupt steel frame maker, in exchange for his influence and privileged access to confidential information on public work projects.

A close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Abe served until December as Secretary General of the LDP's second-largest faction led by Miyazawa.

The Diet is scheduled to convene January 24 for a 150-day session.

A string of recent news reports have speculated that Diet business will be dogged by opposition demands the LDP explain its involvement in the Kyowa scam and live up to its long-time vow to get rid of money politics.

NEC, Seiko Agree To Jointly Develop Software

OW1601141992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—NEC [Nippon Electric Company] Corp. and Seiko Instruments Inc. on Thursday announced an agreement to jointly develop software for computer-aided designing (CAD) of semiconductor circuits.

Under the agreement, Seiko instruments will develop workstation software for designing chip circuits on the basis of design information and specifications supplied by NEC.

NEC has so far developed CAD software for itself. Because of the high-level integration of circuits, however, designing chip circuits has become costly.

NEC decided that it would reduce costs to entrust the development of CAD software to some other firm, NEC officials said.

Under the agreement with NEC, Seiko Instruments may improve on CAD software NEC earlier developed, using design information furnished by NEC, and sell the software to other companies.

Breakthrough in Chip-Making Technology Claimed

OW1601100792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. and Japan Tobacco Inc. announced Thursday the development of what they claim is the world's fastest equipment for attaching electronic components to semiconductor chips.

The MH-5000 can attach an electronic component, such as a transistor and resistor, to a printed wafer in 0.125 second, or at a speed faster than any other existing equipment, the two companies said.

The new device, which measures 1.82 meters in width, 2.05 meters in length, and 2.38 meters in height, can be

used for chips measuring up to 508 millimeters in width and 381 millimeters in length, they said.

The companies said the product will be sold for 45 million yen per unit starting in October. Toshiba will be responsible for marketing, while production will be undertaken by both companies, they said.

The companies estimated the fiscal 1993 domestic market for the component-attaching equipment to be some 100 billion yen.

Sanyo Electric Develops Powerful Laser

OW1601082292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. has developed a semiconductor laser for high performance erasable optical disc memories, high speed printers, and inter-satellite communications, company officials said Thursday.

The semiconductor laser operated at 150 milliwatts for 5,000 hours at room temperature and oscillated at wavelengths between 800 and 870 nanometers, the officials said.

The company plans to begin selling the lasers around June, they said.

It will present the development at an international symposium to be held by the society of photo-optical instrumentation engineers this month in the U.S., the officials said.

Agency Urges Lowering Nitrogen Oxide Exhaust

OW1601142292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The director general of the Environment Agency called Thursday on four manufacturers of diesel trucks to do their utmost to develop technology for lowering nitrogen oxide in exhaust fumes, agency officials said.

Shozaburo Nakamura made his appeal to the presidents of the four diesel truck makers when they visited the agency upon his invitation.

In 1989, the agency's central council for environmental pollution control submitted a report calling for a 30 to 60 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide by 1999.

But prospects are dim that the target will be met by that time, industry analysts said.

Nitrogen oxide controls on diesel trucks are lax compared to restrictions on gasoline-powered vehicles, Nakamura said.

The public feels the diesel pollution situation is abominable, he said.

"The problem can no longer be ignored. We want the diesel industry to strive for an early attainment of the targets," he said.

North Korea

UN Envoy: Meeting With U.S. 'Probably' 22 Jan

OW1601040092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0316 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 15 (KYODO)—Senior U.S. and North Korean officials will "most probably" meet January 22 for talks in New York, Pyongyang's ambassador to the United Nations said Wednesday.

Pak Kil-yon told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the meeting agenda would include "all the comprehensive matters relating to bilateral relations between the two countries," including the improvement of relations.

He said an official announcement of any agreements reached at the discussions would be made within a day or two of the meeting.

The meeting was made possible by an assurance from North Korea that it will sign an accord late January with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to submit to international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The United States has indicated it will raise the matter of nuclear development at the talks. Washington maintains that Pyongyang is close to producing a nuclear weapon.

North Korea denies the charge but has never allowed international inspectors as required by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which it signed in 1985.

Pak said the question of nuclear development has already been resolved because North Korean Leader Kim Il-song has agreed to sign the IAEA inspections agreement.

U.S. Military 13 Jan Aerial Exercise Reported

SK1501044192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce command on January 13 staged an aerial surprise attack and joint ground strike exercise directed against the North in the sky above South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized there were fighter-bombers and assault planes based in Japan proper and the Pacific and fighter planes of the U.S. Airforce stationed in South Korea and the puppet airforce, more than 150 all told.

That day an artillery group of the puppet army took a firing position near Oechon-ri, Cholwon-up, Cholwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province, and fired scores of shells at an area adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line and other

troops of the puppet army took a position in Chokgo-ri, Yonchon County, Kyonggi Province, and fired at random more than 1,000 machine gun and automatic rifle bullets.

Earlier, on the 12th, the South Korean puppets staged a war gamble of "commando" operation in an area along the Military Demarcation Line to increase the capacity of surprise strike at targets in the depth of the northern half of Korea.

U.S.-ROK 14 Jan Joint Exercise Reported

SK1601045392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce and Navy commands on January 14 committed a large-scale aerial war exercise against the North in the sky above South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the war game above Tokjok Islet, Kongju and Kunwi of South Korea were formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes based in Japan proper and the Pacific and more than 250 fighter planes of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

That day the U.S. imperialists sent a KC-135 tanker plane to the sky above Tokjok Islet on the West Sea from an overseas base to stage an exercise of mid-air refuelling of ten odd fighter-bombers mobilized in the war game, and brought large transport planes loaded with a huge amount of combat materiel to air bases in South Korea from the Pacific and deployed them in the theatre of operation.

In separate action, the South Korean puppets ran amuck in various war exercises getting on our nerves along the Military Demarcation Line.

On the 14th, a tank group of the puppet army deployed in Kumpa-ri, Paju County, fired scores of shells, moving toward an area adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone of the Military Demarcation Line, and puppet army bandits who took firing positions near Chokgo-ri, Yonchon County, and Nosang-ri, Paju County, threatend us by firing at random more than 300 12.7 mm large-calibre machine gun bullets and M-16 automatic rifles.

On the same day, formations of armed helicopters of the puppet army which were sent to the sky above Chomwon-ri of Paju County and Hyonga-ri and Mt. Yawol north of Majon-ri, Yonchon County, staged a war exercise aimed at in-depth infiltration into our side under our very nose with a low altitude and ultra-low altitude flight.

The war planes mobilized in various war manoeuvres against the northern half of Korea in the sky above South Korea on January 14 alone numbered more than 600.

Daily Demands End to U.S., South Maneuvers

SK1401050392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 14 Jan 92

["Team Spirit Must Be Discontinued for Good and All"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—The United States and the South Korean authorities must discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres for good and all, not this year alone, demands NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The "Team Spirit" which has been escalated every year from 1976 as an annual event has seriously affected peace and the cause of reunification in Korea, economy and people's living in the North and the South of Korea, the article says, and continues:

Our party and the DPRK Government, proceeding from the consistent stand against a war on the Korean peninsula and for peace and peaceful reunification, have strongly urged an end to the war game for 16 years since it started.

Though the United States and the South Korean authorities announced that they would suspend the "Team Spirit" this year, it is belated, truth to tell. The "Team Spirit" should have been stopped long ago both in view of the desire of the nation for peace and peaceful reunification and of the worldwide trend towards independence and peace.

We welcome the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities, though belatedly, announced that the "Team Spirit" would be stopped this year.

Their announcement must be carried into effect at all events.

And they must discontinue the exercises for good and all, not this year alone, in keeping with the situation of the Korean peninsula merging into the trend of the time towards detente and peace.

Since the North and the South adopted an agreement promising nonaggression and agreed upon a joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the "Rimpac", "Eagle" and all other large-scale military exercises which have been staged in South Korea together with outside forces against fellow countrymen must be brought to an end.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities persistently resort to the thinking-pattern of the cold war era, the policy of strength and fratricidal war confrontation, they will have to be held fully responsible for the grave consequences arising therefrom, warns the article.

Commentary Denounces Military Exercises in South

SK1501134292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1147 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "A War Exercise That Reveals Ambition for a Northward Invasion"]

[Text] According to a military source, since the beginning of the year the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have been staging various types of war exercises for an imaginary northward invasion and mobilizing more fighters, thus inspiring war fever in Korea. On 9 January the U.S. Pacific Air Force Command staged another reckless joint aerial war exercise, using the skies over South Korea as its operational area. This provocative war exercise, staged for many hours in the skies over the Wonju, Oeyon-do islet, and Pyongchang areas, was a war game in which fighters from U.S. Air Force bases in the Pacific and fighters belonging to the U.S. Air Force units in South Korea and the puppet air forces were mobilized to test their joint air strike capability for a northward invasion.

On 8 and 9 January the U.S. imperialists introduced from their air bases in the Pacific large cargo aircraft loading operational equipment at Air Force bases in South Korea. On 9 January KC-135 refueling aircraft from U.S. air bases in the Pacific flew over the skies of the West coast area off Kunsan. The U.S. imperialists staged a war exercise, practicing air-to-air refueling with some 20 fighter-bombers. On the same day the South Korean puppets flew C-130 cargo aircraft carrying Ranger Corps troops over the Yanggu area in Kangwon Province of South Korea. They staged a parachute jump exercise to infiltrate deep into the northern half of the republic. Thus, they inspired a war fever.

These frantic war exercises by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets not only vividly reveal that there is no change in the rascals' ambition for a northward invasion, but are also a vicious challenge to and mockery of our peopie and the peace-loving people of the world.

On 7 January the United States and the South Korean authorities jointly announced suspension of the Team Spirit-92 joint military exercise. At a time when the agreement of nonaggression between the North and the South has been signed and the situation on the Korean peninsula has taken an important first step toward detente and peace, their decision to suspend the 1992 Team Spirit joint military exercise is one step forward toward peace.

In this connection, we urged the South Korean authorities not to cease or reverse these affirmative developments, but to make more efforts to eliminate the present military confrontation between the North and the South and to achieve solid peace at an early date. We urged them to renounce not only the Team Spirit joint military exercise forever, but also other large-size military exercises, including the Eagle exercise, that have been staged against our fellow countries in collusion with foriegn forces.

We also urged the United States, which is responsible for the peace problem on the Korean peninsula, to look straight at today's reality, in which the North and the South have promised nonaggression and reconciliation between them; to withdraw U.S. forces from South Korea in conformity with the demands of this reality; and to take a responsible step for withdrawing its nuclear weapons from there.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are frantically running wild for war exercises for a northward invasion since the beginning of the year. This is not only a challenge to our just assertions, but also casts a dark shadow on the people at home and abroad who are looking ahead at bright prospects for detente on the Korean peninsula.

Our demands for suspending the Team Spirit exercise are not aimed at suspending the exercise itself. The Team Spirit war exercise is an extremely dangerous war commotion for northward invasion in light of its size, content, and aggressive nature. When this war exercise is staged every year, the tensions on the Koren peninsula will not be alleviated, but the danger of war will increase. This is why we have strongly called for suspending the Team Spirit war exercise in order to alleviate tensions on the Korean peninsula and to create favorable circumstances for national reunification.

If, despite their announcement to suspend the Team Spirit exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continue to stage the extremely reckless war exercises which are equivalent to the Team Spirit war exercise, their announcement to suspend the Team Spirit exercise will be of no significance. Their continuation of the Team Spirit exercise will result in extreme aggravation of the situation on the Korean peninsulas and in increasing the danger of war, as we saw when the exercise was staged.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Koean puppets have been aggravating our country's situation since the beginning of the year by staging reckless war exercises while talking about the suspension of the Team Spirit war exercise. This can by no means be tolerated. Even today, when the relations of confrontation between the East and the West have crumbled and an atmosphere for peaceful reunification of our nation has been unprecedentedly enhanced, the United States is trying to realize its wild ambition for a northward invasion with the old viewpoint of the cold war era. It should renounce such an anachronistic way of thinking and do things that are conducive to peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

Halt in Team Spirit 'Fruition' of North's Policy

SK1301052392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0449 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—The announcement of the South Korean authorities and the United States that they would not stage the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres this year is entirely a brilliant fruition of our just peaceloving policy and persistent efforts for peace, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Noting that the "Team Spirit" which the South Korean authorities have staged together with the United States from 1976 as an annual event is a very provocative and dangerous preliminary war, a test nuclear war aimed at surprising our Republic, the article says the war game has been escalated year by year to the scale enough to launch a full-fledged war.

Therefore, our party and the DPRK Government, out of the ardent desire to prevent a war on the Korean peninsula and pave the way for peace and peaceful reunification, have strongly urged an end to the military exercises and have shown all their sincerity at the inter-Korean high-level talks to solve this problem, the article notes, and stresses:

The South Korean authorities, however, have turned down the just peace proposals and initiatives of ours and have continued the "Team Spirit" every year together with the United States.

The South Korean authorities have no reason to stage military manoeuvres against our Republic by bringing even overseas-based aggression forces into South Korea.

Since the North and the South promised reconciliation and nonaggression and agreed upon the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, there is no pretext to keep the U.S. forces in South Korea and no ground to continue the "Team Spirit".

The United States and the South Korean authorities must discontinue for good and all, not this year alone, the "Team Spirit" which is contrary to inter-Korean reconciliation and unity, peace and peaceful reunification of the country and take a radical step to stop all other large-scale military exercises against the North, the article stresses.

Daewoo Business Group President Arrives 16 Jan

SK1601105192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—Kim U-chung, president of South Korean Daewoo Business Group, and his party arrived here today.

Children presented bouquets to them.

They were met at Pyongyang railway station by Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Chairman of the External Economy Commission Kim Tal-hyon, Vice-Minister of External Economic Affairs Kim Chong-u and officials concerned.

Secretary Hwang Chang-yop Meets Chuche Delegation

SK1601105092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1012 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop today met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea led by its direcor general Shuhachi Inoue.

Present there was Yi Chi-su, president of the Chuche Academy.

Japanese Ministers Cited on 'Comfort Women' Issue

SK1601045692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0417 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government authorities admitted that the state was involved in the problem of the "Korean comfort women for the army", according to reports of NHK and ASAHI SHIMBUN.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at a press conference on January 14 admitted that the Japanese Army was involved in taking away Korean women as "comfort women" for soldiers during the Pacific war and said that the Japanese Government sincerely apologizes and repents for this.

Foreign Minister Watanabe in a TV appearance said that "We cannot but admit that the state in those days was involved in the problem of the comfort women for the army".

As regards the discovery of materials proving that the old Japanese army had a hand in the affairs of the "comfort houses" and "comfort women for the army", Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said that no one can deny the involvement of the army in them, thus admitting the responsibility of the state.

More Documents Made Public

SK1601104992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1006 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—More materials proving that Korean women were taken away as "comfort girls" for the Japanese Army during the Pacific war have been discovered one after another, reported Japanese media.

MAINICHI SHIMBUN January 11 said under the title "Former Japanese Army Involved in Comfort Houses":

Documents revealing that the Japanese army set up and controlled "comfort houses" in the Chinese mainland in

the period from the Sino-Japanese war to the Pacific war were made public on January 10.

The documents consist of five pieces of historical materials which date back to the period from 1938 to 1942. They were found by Prof. Yoshiaka Yoshimi of Chuo University in a diary containing official documents of the army, which were preserved in the library of the Defense Institute of the Defense Agency.

The fact-finding group on the draft of Koreans also recently found a document proving that the Japanese army planned to bring "comfort girls" to Japan from the Korean peninsula and China.

ASAHI SHIMBUN said:

A document dated March 4, 1938, contained an order to the China-based Japanese army to "supervise" the draft of prostitutes and precautions to ensure the honor of the Japanse army and prevent a public stir over this matter.

During the Second World War some 100,000-200,000 women were reportedly forced into prostitution and most of them were drafted in Korea under the rule of Japan.

The fact that the Japanese army in those days set up "comfort houses" at army positions and controlled the collection of "comfort girls" was proved when some top secret documents of the army including a military note titled "Document on the Girls Employed at Comfort Houses" were exchanged between the Japanese Army Ministry and the units dispatched to China and diaries were found at the library of the Defense Agency of Japan. The KYODO NEWS SERVICE January 10 said: The fact that when the Japanese army was going to take Chinese workers to Sakhalin and Hokkaido in 1940, it planned to send Korean women there as "comfort girls" was disclosed in a secret document of the Ministry of Army recently.

Ukraine, Angola, Guyana Leaders Receive Envoys

SK1601044792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0414 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—Foreign state leaders recently expressed support to the Korean people's cause of national reunification when they met DPRK ambassadors to their countries.

President of Guyana H. Desmond Hoyte said:

The adoption of the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" is entirely attributable to the correct reunification proposal advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

He stated that he would continue to support the Korean people in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that Angola would, in the future, too, extend invariable support to the Korean people's cause of reunification.

He supported the stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as regards the problem of nuclear inspection.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk stated: The Ukraine has supported and will support the reunification cause of the Korean people.

University Economic Delegation Leaves for Cuba

SK1601105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the University of National Economy led by its President Kim Kuk-hun left here today for Cuba.

It was seen off at the airport by officials concerned and Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega.

Production Successes of Chemical Industry Noted

SK1501114992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1031 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—Remarkable successes were made in the chemical industry of Korea last year.

A project for introducing large and modern equipment into the Hungnam fertilizer complex, the nation's leading chemical fertilizer producer, was completed.

An extra-large ammonia compounding tank replacing the 22 existing compounding tanks, a 4,000 HP [horse power] compressor and 9,400 other automated and remote-controlled units of equipment were assembled and installed by domestic designs, technologies and materials in a matter of three months. As a result, all the technical processes of the complex have been further modernized and its production capacity increased considerably.

Production processes including the oxygen plant shop with a total floor space of more than 11,000 square metres were completed at the February 8 vinalon complex to decisively increase the production of carbide. This has made it possible to make a greater contribution to the development of the nation's light industry and the improvement of the people's living standards by markedly increasing the production of methanol, acid protein feed, vinalon, vinyl chloride, caustic soda and sodium carbonate and various other chemical goods.

Besides, the Hamhung Chemical Joint Venture Factory, the Youth Paper Mill and other factories were commissioned to further increase the independent character of the chemical industry.

The first-stage construction of the fertilizer factory of the Sunchon vinalon complex and the construction of the system of Kiln No. 1 of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex are near completion.

And the construction of new objects including the sodium carbonate factory, the caustic soda factory and the salt factory have gone ahead at fast speed.

Today the chemical industry of the country has developed into a mighty industry with a harmonious combination of the inorganic and the organic chemical industry, by strictly relying on domestic raw material and fuel resources, thus satisfactorily meeting the growing needs of the national economy for varieties of chemical goods.

Korea aims at an annual production of 7.2 million tons of fertilizers, 225,000 tons of chemical fibers and more than 500,000 tons of synthetic resin and plasticizers in the present Seven-Year Plan period (1987-1993). In this period the production of sodium carbonate will increase 4.5 times, caustic soda 2.1 times and sulfuric acid three times.

'Agitation' Stimulates Production, Construction

SK1501043092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1507 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—The brisk agitation in Korea has fully displayed its vitality as a powerful means of increased production and faster construction.

Drum-beating of agitation is heard on Cholsan hill of Musan which is a leading mineral producer, underground cutting faces of Komdok, construction sites of electric, coal, chemical, metallurgical and building-material production bases, construction sites of the capital and dwelling houses, pelagic fishing grounds, cooperative fields and other places.

On-the-spot broadcasting services and loudspeaker cars are busy conducting exciting and appealing oral propaganda, introducing achievements and congratulating innovators.

Agitators in the capital and local areas encourage constructors and producers to a higher degree of revolutionary zeal during breaks with songs, dances, poem recitation, comic stories, sketches, etc.

Encouraged by their agitation, the musan miners increased the production of iron headings 70 percent and the coal mines lifted output 20 percent in the period from the first day of the year compared with the corresponding period last year.

Entering this year, the power stations have topped their daily quotas by hundreds of thousands kilowatt-hour compared with the same period last year and new speeds have been reported one after another in the construction sites of power stations, the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex and other main projects.

Agitation is conducted in various ways and forms such as art performance on the stage and at production and construction sites, televised gathering, agitation through visual aids, joint gathering at allied production units, welcoming those going to work at the gate of their working places.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with a view to effecting a great upsurge in all sectors of socialist construction and making the whole country replete with revolutionary zeal and spirit, put forward the policy of powerful agitation for increased production and faster construction and has wisely directed it.

In the autumn of 1973 when it was necessary to decisively increase the production of lorries and tractors, he formed powerful agitation teams with central and local artists and men of the press and sent them to the Sungri general motor works and the Kumsong general tractor works.

He also saw to it that the agitation was conducted intensively in different ways with the mobilization of various means of propaganda and agitation including loudspeaker cars.

Inspired by this, the producers raised the production of lorries two times and tractors 2.5 times in some 40 days compared with the same period of last year.

In this course, a model of agitation was created and a valuable experience gained.

The experience has been generalized in the whole country.

Art propaganda troupes were formed in every province and itinerant art propaganda troupes in every county, industrial establishments and cooperative farms for the agitation for increased production.

Troupes engaging in agitation for increased production which were made up of central and local artists and men of the press have been sent to main establishments.

The agitation for increased production and faster construction in all parts of the country encourages the working people in their efforts to brilliantly adorn this significant year.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 15 Jan

SK1501054092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0429 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry news that foreign media reported the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the Britain-Korea Friendship Committee released a statement supporting the policy of national reunification put forward by him in his New Year address.

Appearing in the press are messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of the new year.

It is reported in the press that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the veteran members of the

Workers' Party of Korea at the Pyongyang Changjon Primary School for their letter expressing their resolution to remain always loyal to the WPK.

Papers carry accounts of mass rallies across the country hailing the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and news that congratulatory messages and letters came to him in this connection from heads of political parties and states and political and public figures of over seventy countries.

NODONG SINMUN carries messages of greetings sent by the WPK Central Committee to Laurent Fabius upon his election as first secretary of the French Socialist Party and to George Hawi upon his reelection as general secretary of the C.C., the Lebanese Communist Party.

MINJU CHOSON deals with the Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method, the chuche-based method of mass leadership created by President Kim Il-song.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article titled "Revolutionary Banner Leading Anti-imperialist Cause of Independence to Victory" and MINJU CHOSON an article headlined "Aggression and Plunder Are Intrinsic Nature of Imperialism" on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the publication of the work "*On Characteristics of Modern Imperialism and Its Aggressive Nature*" by Comrade Kim Chong- il.

The chuche idea has been widely disseminated among South Korean people, evoking a great sympathy among them, says NODONG SINMUN.

Carried in the daily is an article telling about the noble revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who fought unyieldingly with the conviction of sure victory.

The press informs the readers that the roadbed construction of the second-stage tramway project in the capital has been completed in the main and the coal output has increased.

An article of NODONG SINMUN says that obstacles to national reconciliation and unity should be removed, if the inter-Korean agreement is to be carried into effect, and conveys voices of foreign political and public circles calling for dispelling the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

The press reports that the Angolan, Guyanese and Swiss presidents met the DPRK ambassadors to their countries.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN exposes the fact that No Tae-u received a colossal amount of political funds from the Hyundai Business Group and other businesses and in a short commentary the daily says that during the "Asian-Pacific ministerial meeting" the South Korean puppets presented their master, the United States, with pure gold and a jewel box to curry favour with it.

According to the daily, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged military manoeuvres to increase the capacity of attack on the North.

Given in the press is an account of a contact of delegates of the North and the South held to exchange the texts of "joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula".

Foreign news columns of NODONG SINMUN include reports that Premier Li Peng called for implementing the basic principles of socialist education, the president of the State of Palestine vowed to continue the revolution, the Indonesian foreign minister rejected the plan to establish a foreign military base, a demonstration was held in East Berlin in memory of leaders of the German labour movement and Chinese working people have made achievements in socialist economic construction.

The daily carries an article calling for invigorating the peace movement and an article titled "White House Showing Signs of Ruin".

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 16 Jan

SK1601051892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0431 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a report that the newly-appointed Yemeni ambassador here presented his credentials to the great leader president Kim Il-song.

Carried in the press is a report that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent messages of greetings to heads of state of different countries on the new year. Also given in the press is a message of greetings he received from Andres Regiardo Sayan, national general secretary of the "Cambio 90" movement of Peru, on the new year.

Printed in the press is a message of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song sent by Renan Raffo Munoz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru, upon the adoption of the North-South agreement.

NODONG SINMUN carries an account of mass rallies across the country to carry through the tasks set forth by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address and world voices supporting the policy of national reunification advanced by him in his New Year address.

The daily informs the readers that organizations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) studied the New Year teachings of President Kim Il-song.

It is reported in the press that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to foreign party and state leaders in reply to their messages of greetings on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN deals with the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong- il to the work for the chuche-orientation of iron production.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to a teacher of the automation department of Kim Il- song University and a worker of Kim Man-yu Hospital and their family members, says the daily.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for launching more dynamically the movement for the creation of "the speed of the '90s".

Carried in the press are economic achievements in different domains of the national economy.

Papers report that the general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Guyanese prime minister and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Malta respectively met the DPRK ambassadors to their countries.

Seen in the press is news that the house of deputies of Peru adopted a resolution hailing the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement and foreign papers carried articles on its adoption.

Under the title "Pyongyang Where Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] Visited Again, 85-Day Dialogue for Reunification", papers come out with a travelogue (1) written by student Pak Song-hui who visited the northern half of Korea as a representative of Chondaehyop from South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities committed ceaseless ground and aerial war exercises against the North, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up voices of foreigners highly praising the Workers' Party of Korea which has the relations of kinship with the people.

In a commentary, NODONG SINMUN hits out at Miyashita, director general of the Defence Agency of Japan, for seeking continued arms buildup and pursuing wild ambition for "military power".

According to the press, the fact that Korean women had been taken away as "comfort women" for the Japanese forces during the Pacific war was disclosed from the archives of the Defence Agency of Japan and the Japanese Government authorities including the prime minister recognized the involvement of the state in this matter and apologized for it.

International news columns of the press include reports that President Yang Shangkun visited Malaysia, the second meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia was held, the Indonesian president called for the establishment of a fair, new international order, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation adopted a resolution on the confirmation of the state ownership, the Filipino committee on the U.S. troops pullout was organized and the Vietnamese working people made success in the socialist construction.

In the review of the South Korean situation NODONG SINMUN reports about the vigorous anti-U.S. struggle of the South Korean people for independence and reunification from the beginning of the new year and criticizes the South Korean authorities' unchanged moves for confrontation and split.

South Korea

Government Finalizes Rice-Market Opening Stance

SK1101021592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0057 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea will reiterate its objections to the rice market opening and repeat its calls for the recognition of exceptions to tariffication of agricultural products at the Uruguay Round trade talks, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said Saturday.

The government had finalized its stance in inter-ministerial consultations to prepare for a meeting of the trade negotiating committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade opening in Geneva on Monday, an EPB spokesman said.

Korea's position is that it will not accept the proposals put forward recently by Arthur Dunkel, GATT director-general, without revisions, he said.

Strong demands will be made in the meeting for the exclusion of a few agricultural items from tariffication and for continuous restriction of a few imports.

Efforts will be made to minimize the impact of the opening of the service market and to reflect Korea's concerns in the course of writing new rules governing trade in commercial services.

The government will do its best endeavor to have the demands fully considered in negotiations over market access and service sector.

Dunkel's take-it-or-leave-it package will be finalized after a consensus is formed among trading countries in such sectors as market access and service.

Officials from the EPB and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Trade and Industry had agreed that the government should not accept tariffication without exception, which is prescribed by the Dunkel draft, because it would mean opening of Korea's rice market, he said.

He said the government would act jointly with other farm goods importing countries to set aside a few items from tariffication.

Kim In-ho, assistant economic planning minister for international economic policy coordination, said he could not guess how the trade negotiating committee meeting would proceed.

Dunkel earlier asked trading countries to express whether they would accept or veto his package in the Jan. 13 meeting.

Japan's Prime Minister Miyazawa Arrives on Visit

Greeted by Chong Won-sik

SK1601070392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived in Seoul amid snow flurries Thursday to begin a three-day visit.

Chong Won-sik, his South Korean counterpart, and government administration minister Yi Sang-pae greeted Miyazawa at Seoul Airport with handshakes.

The snow sent Miyazawa and his 15-member entourage indoors for the official welcoming ceremony, which saw Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Ambassador to Japan O Chae-hui among the crowd.

Miyazawa introduced Chong to each member of his official party and after the 13-minute ceremony the prime minister went straight to the National Cemetery, where he lit incense in a sign of respect for the dead.

Meets With No Tae-u

SK1601100192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0944 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had a brief chat on the weather before they began the first round of summit talks at Chongwadae.

No told Miyazawa that he thought the Japanese leader had attached great importance to the Seoul-Tokyo relations when he chose Korea as the first country to visit in his capacity as Japan's prime minister.

Miyazawa replied he was grateful to No for his invitation and dispatch of Korean Ambassador to Japan Yi Won-kyong to his inaugural ceremony.

Miyazawa expressed his interest in the newly-built main hall of the Chongwadae compound and No explained that it was built in traditional Korean style.

No also said he was pleased that Miyazawa was to deliver a speech at the Korean National Assembly, for the first time as a Japanese prime minister, and visit Kyongju to see cultural assets of Korea.

Miyazawa arrived at the main hall of Chongwadae at 3 p.m. and shook hands with No who had been waiting for him in front of the hall.

After writing his name on a guest book in the central hall, Miyazawa and No took a picture and received attendants in audience.

The exclusive meeting were on hand by Kim Chong-hui, senior presidential secretary for diplomacy and security, and Sakutaro Tanino, director-general for Asian affairs at the Japanese Foreign Minstry.

The first round of the No-Miyazawa meeting lasted for two hours, 50 minutes longer than originally scheduled as Miyazawa spent a lot of time to brief No on his meeting with U.S. President George Bush in detail, according to Kim Chong-hui, senior presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security, who was also on hand at the meeting.

On the outset of the talks, Miyazawa praised Korea's diplomatic efforts, including the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, admission to the United Nations and improvement in its relations with North Korea.

"No nation other than Korea has achieved such diplomatic accomplishments in a short span of time," he said.

As No urged that Japan make a political decision for the rectification of bilateral trade imbalance, heavily favoring Japan, Miyazawa said in a roundabout way that he hoped the matter be resolved in the near future through the consultations between private business circles of the two countries.

The Japanese leader said he was one of a few people who forecast in the 1960s that the South Korean economy will produce good results.

Kim said he got a strong impression from the meeting that the Japanese side had an intention to resolve the trade issue in recognition of the seriousness of the problem.

Following the meeting with No, Miyazawa visited Prime Minister Chong Won-sik at his office at 5:15 P.M., 45 minutes later than the original schedule.

Chong told the Japanese visitor that he thought it significant that Miyazawa visited Korea first since he took office.

Miyazawa said he was long thinking to visit Asian countries first if he took the reins of the Japanese politics.

The Miyazawa-Chong meeting was attended by Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, Korean Ambassador to Japan O Chae-hui and Kenichi Yanagi, Japanese ambassador to Korea.

Discusses Trade Imbalance, SDF Dispatch

SK1601112592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1111 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u in a summit Thursday with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa demanded Japan's sincere efforts in revealing truths about Korean women abused as labor and sex slaves for the Japanese army during World War II.

No also urged Miyazawa's "political will" in rectifying the heavy trade imbalance in Japan's favor, Kim Chong-hui, presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security, said in a post-summit briefing.

Miyazawa in a gesture of apology for the past said he is "extremely regretful" for causing unbearable pain.

South Korea and Japan should form a true partnership based on "humble repentance" of the unfortunate past, No emphasized, urging Japan's sincerity in uncovering truths about "teishintai (self-sacrifice corps)," the name Japan gave to the Korean women mobilized during the war.

Japan's lack of substantive and sincere efforts is partly responsible for the continuing trade imbalance and lagging technological cooperation, No told Miyazawa. Japan needs to show its political will to solve the problem, he said.

Miyazawa came to Seoul Thursday morning for a three-day visit, his first overseas tour since he took office in November. Second summit is scheduled for Friday morning.

South Korea and Japan share a dark past with Japan's 35-year colonial rule of South Korea 1910 to 1945. Japan just days before Miyazawa's Seoul visit acknowledged for the first time that its army was directly involved in operating teishintai, believed to be anywhere between 100,000 and 200,000 in number.

The Korean women in teishintai were abused as labor slaves, and many were forced to become sex slaves for Japanese soldiers at war fronts.

On the inter-Korean declaration for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, the two leaders agreed that it is more important for the two sides to implement it and that Japan will take this point into consideration in pursuing diplomatic normalization with North Korea.

The inter-Korean agreements on reconciliation and nuclear-free peninsula signify progress in South-North Korean relations, but it is too early to determine whether they are meaningful developments, No said.

The president asked that Japan take high note of this point.

Miyazawa said North Korea's nuclear capability is an important problem for Japan as well as to South Korea and promised his government's efforts in urging the North to faithfully implement the inter-Korean agreements at diplomatic talks with Pyongyang later this month.

Different from original plan to focus on political issues in the first summit, the two leaders held extensive discussions on economic matters, Kim said in the briefing.

It is a crime against history and the people that Japan is not following through with the agreements made at summits during the past two years to improve the trade situation, No reportedly told Miyazawa.

The Japanese prime minister said he understands South Korea's position, calling the issue a problem that should be solved by Seoul and Tokyo together.

Nearly 8.8 billion U.S. dollars of South Korea's 9.6 billion dollar trade deficit last year was with Japan.

No registered South Korea's opposition to Japan's moves to dispatch Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to U.N. peacekeeping operation, stressing that Japan's contribution to the world should stay non- military.

Miyazawa said Japan is determined not to become a military power and that the Japanese people themselves will not allow it.

Offers Apology at State Dinner

SK1601105892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1043 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized to the Korean people Thursday for the "suffering and sorrow" Japan inflicted upon them in the past "tragic period."

"We Japanese should first and foremost recall the truth of that tragic period when Japanese actions inflicted suffering and sorrow upon your people... We (should) never forget our feelings of remorse over this," Miyazawa said in a speech at a dinner hosted by President No Tae-u at his official residence, Chongwadae.

"As prime minister of Japan, I would like to declare anew my remorse at these deeds and tender my apology to the people of the Republic of Korea," he added.

He congratulated Korea on joining the United Nations and signing an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression and exchange and cooperation with North Korea last year, and said that he wished for early, peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Speaking first, No said the "serious" imbalance of trade between the two countries remained "a grave issue" that must be settled for the development of more mature relations.

"The realization of balanced and reciprocal trade between Korea and Japan is a must not only for the promotion of our sustained prosperity but for the bright future of the Asia-Pacific region as well," No said.

He also hoped for a sincere cooperation in industry, science and technology, calling it "a short cut" to easing the trade imbalance between the two countries. "It is strictly in line with the current international trend for mutual reliance and openness," he said.

"We must make sincere efforts to remove any mental barriers through humble reflection and correct recognition of historical facts... The dark shadows of the past era

should not hinder development of a mature partnership between our two nations for the 21st century," No said.

Trade Concerns To Dominate Miyazawa Visit

SK1501061292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 15 Jan 92

["News analysis"]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—Kiichi Miyazawa arrives in Seoul Thursday for his first visit to South Korea as the Japanese prime minister amid rising concern in his host nation over worsening trade deficits with Japan.

In 1991, South Korea suffered a trade deficit of an incredible 8.8 billion U.S. dollars or about 90 percent of the nation's total trade deficits, according to a tentative estimate by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

It is inevitable, therefore, for South Korean government and business leaders to seize the opportunity of Miayazawa's visit to press Japan to redress the lopsided trade imbalance, government sources say.

As a starter, the government plans to ask the visitor to lower tariff rates on 16 Korean export items including textile, shoes and petrochemical products, remove non-tariff barriers and quantitative restrictions on Korean farm and fishery products.

The government is also expected to ask Japan to establish a fund for Korea-Japan industrial and technological cooperation and open the Japanese construction market to Korean companies as a way to correct trade imbalance, the sources say.

At working-level talks held in preparations for Miyazawa's visit, however, Japan has already indicated "difficulties" to almost all South Korean demands. Prospects, therefore, are not bright for the two sides to reach substantial agreements on any of the Korean demands, the sources say.

As one way to help resolve the problem, government officials are expected to urge the Japanese leader to make "a political decision" on the issue.

South Korea's trade deficits with Japan have been lowest in 1989 when they amounted to 4 billion dollars. But in less than two years, deficits more than doubled last year and they are going to top 10 billion dollars this year unless drastic measures are taken by either or both sides.

Many analysts say, however, South Korea's chronic trade deficits with Japan are alarming not merely because of their monetary sizes but because of structural problems.

South Korean industries, which lag far behind Japan in technology, heavily depend on imports from Japan of machinery and other capital goods and core parts for their products. In order to make more products for exports, South Korea has to import more Japanese materials.

To make the situation worse, imports of finished Japanese products continue to rise as Korean consumers prefer them over products made in other countries because of their quality, proximity of the two countries and availability of after service.

South Korea's dependency on Japanese products result mainly from Japanese industries' unceasing development of technology in every field in sharp contrast to South Koreans who had been accused of neglecting technological improvement while concentrating on making fast profits in real estate and other speculative ventures.

At present, South Korea's dependency on Japan in machinery is said to be 70 to 80 percent and electronics manufacturers have to import 90 percent of their components for sophisticated products from Japan, according to industry officials.

In 1987, the government introduced what was known as the first five-year plan to correct trade imbalance with Japan but as soon as trade deficits began to show signs of narrowing, the plan was dropped both by government officials and industries.

As trade deficits started snowballing again, government officials have reportedly worked out the second five-year plan and are now trying to launch it on the occasion of Miyazawa's visit. Their plans, however, will experience a tough going, many observers say, as the Japanese position in negotiations on the matter is not totally illogical and unreasonable.

South Korea demands lowering of tariff rates on textile, shoes and petrochemical and 13 other products, for instance, but Japan insists that it could not give South Korea a special treatment at the time when the issue is being negotiated at the Uruguay Round of talks for overall tariff reductions.

Nevertheless, South Korean officials are likely to point out that Japan has recently promised to the United States to raise U.S. shares of Japanese market to 20 percent through readjustment of trade structure in an efforts to correct U.S.-Japan trade imbalance heavily in favor of Japan.

In any event, Korean Government officials and businessmen believe Japan should face the problem of its mounting trade surplus with South Korea seriously and respond to Korean demands with positive manner.

Minister Urges Japan To Ease Tariff Barriers

SK1601092092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0844 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea urged Japan on Thursday to rectify the snowballing trade

imbalance between the two nations by easing tariff and non-tariff barriers, expanding the scope of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and establishing a formal foundation for science and technology cooperation.

Korean Finance Minister Yi Yong-man met with his Japanese counterpart, Tsutomu Hata, who is accompanying Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on a visit to Seoul.

In talks with Miyazawa on Friday morning, President No Tae-u is expected to focus on economic issues.

Yi's request was aimed at correcting a nearly 8.8 billion-dollar trade deficit with Japan last year, 90 percent of Korea's aggregate deficit of 9.6 billion dollars. The surplus for Japan totals 57.5 billion dollars since Seoul and Tokyo normalized ties in 1965.

Repeating his country's request last September at the Uruguay Round, Yi asked that Japan lower its 10 percent to 25 percent customs duties on 16 major Korean exports to Japan.

The two countries should open working-level talks between customs officials to discuss the issue, Yi told Hata.

The 16 products, including leatherware, footwear, apparel and luggage, each top 1 billion Japanese yen in exports annually, officials here said.

Yi also asked that the two countries establish a government- private combined foundation for science and technology transfer. The cost of launching the foundation is estimated at 200 million dollars, and Korea is urging Japan to put up two-thirds of the amount.

Demands were made for Japan's removal of non-tariff barriers, primarily the quota system, and expansion of the scope and number of items listed under Japan's GSP.

Korean Economic Minister Choe Kak-kyu addressed the same issues when he met with Hata.

The country's most immedi[illegible] economic task was reducing the trade deficit, said Choe, who is also deputy premier. Miyazawa's Seoul visit should serve as an opportunity for Japan to take concrete steps to correct the imbalance, he was quoted as saying.

He urged Japan to agree to establish a science-technology cooperation foundation, reduce tariffs on Korean goods and open its construction market to Korean firms.

Officials said Hata responded negatively on tariff reduction, saying the issue should be settled in the Uruguay Round. He was also negative toward the foundation, but said that Japan would consider it.

The Japanese finance minister avoided direct comment on construction market opening, the officials said.

Trade Minister Stresses Boosting Exports to Japan

SK1501075692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0734 GMTdd

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su urged Wednesday 15 Korean companies that import large amounts of Japanese goods to do their best to improve the trade imbalance with Japan.

Meeting with some industrialists, Han said Korea's yawning trade deficit was due to heavy imports from Japan and a lack of exports to its island neighbor.

He emphasized that 15 companies account for over 33 percent of Korea's imports from Japan and told them to do something about the deficit.

Han said that it would be difficult to solve the problem in a short time, however, because its basic causes were a structural dependency on Japan and the striking superiority of Japan's technology.

To improve the worsening trade situation, machine parts should be localized and the competitive power of manufacturing companies strengthened by accumulating technology and controlling quality, he said.

Officials from Hyundai Corp., Pohang Iron and Steel Co. and Kia Motor Co. were present.

Protestors Demonstrate Against Miyazawa's Visit

SK1501112392 Seoul YONHAP in English 1018 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—On the eve of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's arrival here, hundreds of angry protesters rallied in front of the Japanese Embassy to condemn Japan's wartime attrocities and demand formal apology and due compensation from Japan.

Anti-Japanese sentiment has flared up among Koreans with recent revelations of records showing that Japan forced even primary school girls to serve as sex slaves for Japanese troops during the World War II, and Koreans have demonstrated almost every day to protest Japan's brutality during its coloninial rule of Korea in 1910-1945.

Various social and human rights organizations, including the association of bereaved families of the Pacific war victims, issued Wednesday statements accusing Japan of its wartime abuse of Korean people.

The association, in particular, said that they felt anger at the visit of the Japanese prime minister who had not made a "sincere" apology and compensation for the Korean patriots killed during Japan's rule of Korea.

Its six-point demand included an official apology and compensation for the Korean sufferers.

The association said it was sending the statement to the presidential office of Chongwadae and the Japanese emperor.

The Human Rights Committee of the Korea National Council of Churches also demanded apology and compensation.

"Japan should feel an acute sense of responsibility for the inhumane colonial rule. It should fully reveal the truth behind the forced prostitution of Korean women and apologize to the Korean people and give due compensation," it said.

About 300 people demonstrated in front of the Japanese Embassy in central Seoul, shouting, "No Miyazawa visit without apology and compensation." The protesters also hurled some 200 eggs to the embassy compound.

They tried to burn a dummy of the Japanese emperor but were stopped by riot policemen.

Rallies, Protests Continue 16 Jan

SK1601044492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—Rallies and demonstrations in Seoul continue to protest Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit.

The Japanese Embassy in the heart of the capital is a regular site of anti-Japan protests as members of the Associaton of the Bereaved Families of the Pacific War and the Council on Countermeasures for the Chongsindae [comfort girls corps] Problem gather there every day to picket and shout slogans.

On Thursday, members of the two organizations, along with families of independence fighters, gathered at Tapkol Park on Chongno Street and rallied in demand of an official apology from Japan and compensation for victims of Japanese wartime atrocities.

More than 12,000 policemen have been stationed in the neighborhood of the Hotel Lotte, where Miyazawa is to stay, and the embassy and on streets leading to those buildings.

A spokesman for the Association of the Bereaved Families of the Pacific War said some 1,000 members would take to the streets around Lotte and a group of between 200 and 300 members would trail Miyazawa wherever he went.

The Korea Women United plans to demand an apology and compensation for Japan's sexual abuse of Korean women during World War II in a rally near the National Assembly building in Yoido on Thursday afternoon.

The participants will issue a statement and send copies to both the Korean and Japanese Governments.

The Korea Women's Political Caucus will call on Tokyo to pay "full" compensation for the victims of wartime abuse in a rally at the Korea Press Center in downtown Seoul on Thursday afternoon.

Further on Demonstrations

SK1601134192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1304 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—Angry Koreans continued to demonstrate in Seoul on Thursday, when Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived, opposing Miyazawa's visit and demanding Japan's apology and compensation for its atrocities during its colonial rule of Korea 1910-1945.

Some 100 people belonging to 10 various social and human rights organization gathered at Pagoda Park, a landmark of anti-Japanese struggle in downtown Seoul, to oppose Miyazawa's Korean visit.

The protesters argued that they could not tolerate Miyazawa's visit as there had been no acceptable apology and promise for due compensation for its past wrongdoing.

"The (Korean) Government should wrest a sincere and concrete apology from the Japanese Government for Japan's past sins," they said.

Anti-Japanese sentiment has flared up in Korea with recent revelations of records showing that Japan forced even primary school girls to join "teishintai," a corps of women which served Japanese army during the World War II, some of them as sex slaves.

The crowd burned a dummy of Japanese Emperor Akihito.

The demonstraters took to the street and tried to march to the Japanese Embassy, a few kilometers away from the park, but were blocked midway by riot troopers.

Meanwhile, some 100 people staged a sit-in in front of the Japanese Embassy, demanding that Japan offer a formal apology to the Korean victims, make compensation and search and repatriate the remains of the Korean dead.

The protesters marched to a nearby government office building and staged a sit-in for 30 minutes before they were dispersed by riot policemen.

Earlier in the day, 20 members of the "June 3 Fraternity," a grouping of student activists who fiercely opposed normalization of relations with Japan in 1960s, visited the embassy to hand over a statement to the government and people of Japan but the embassy refused to accept.

The Political Federation of Women held a rally at the press center in downtown Seoul to urge the Japanese Government to compensate for the victims of teishintai.

About 50 people tried to deliver a proposition to the Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa at the Japanese Embassy but were rejected.

Police deployed 10,000 troopers around Miyazawa's temporary residence, along main streets of Seoul and near the Japanese embassy.

Government Sets Up Committee on 'Comfort Girls'

SK1601012492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0055 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will set up a fact-finding committee on women conscripted to sexually serve Japanese soldiers during World War II, a government official said Thursday.

The inter-ministerial committee will be set up in the prime minister's office and complete the first phase of its investigation in the first half of the year, the official said.

Korea will ask Japan to set up a similar committee at government level during Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit here Thursday to Saturday.

Authorities believe between 100,000 to 200,000 girls, most of them Koreans, were mobilized to serve in the Japanese Army during the war, some as forced labor and others as sex slaves for the soldiers at the front.

Japan made its first formal apology earlier this week as documents surfaced directly linking the army to recruitment of women for the "Teishintai (self-sacrifice corps)."

Miyazawa is expected to apologize during his Seoul visit.

"Once fact-finding is complete, Japan is most likely to take compensatory action," the official said, adding that the Korean Government would seek "a political solution."

The Foreign Ministry will start gathering documents from other countries on Teishintai, ministry officials said. Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok is expected to talk with his Japanese counterpart, Michio Watanabe, when he is in Washington next week and to address the Teishintai problem.

DPRK Envoy on Possible Noncommunist Government

SK1601065292 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 16 Jan 92 p 2

[AFP/YONHAP from Geneva and Tokyo]

[Text] On 15 January, Yi Chol, North Korean ambassador to Geneva, said that although the North and the South want national reunification through the confederal system by maintaining each side's present social system, some day all the Korean people may possibly be living [saljido morunda] under a noncommunist government.

In a news conference that day, he said that "the confederal system is a relatively long-range plan for resolving the issue of the reunification of the Korean peninsula. The people will decide by themselves whether they want to live under one political system or not and will decide on their own under which political system they want to live." He added: "I do not want to say that our nation will be or will not be a socialist country. However, the reunified Korea should be a nonaligned neutral state and should peacefully live with neighboring countries."

Ambassador Yi said that the issue of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean peninsula and the issue of reunification will be the main topics of discussion during the high-level talks between North Korea and the United States slated for later this month in New York.

Touching on the nuclear issue, he stressed that North Korea will accept nuclear inspection when it reaches an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Publisher Returns From Visit to DPRK

SK1601094592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0805 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—Pak Po-hi, president-publisher of the vernacular daily SEGYE ILBO, who paid a controversial visit to North Korea with the Rev. Moon Sun-myong, founder of the Unification Church, last December, returned to Seoul Thursday.

Pak, the No. 2 man in the Unification Church, told reporters upon arrival at Kimpo International Airport that he did not believe he has violated laws since he reported back to the government on his trip and return as soon as he got out of North Korea as required by laws.

He said he had obtained permission from the South Korean Government in Beijing prior to his departure for North Korea.

His North Korean visit, therefore, should not be compared with that of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, a dissident Protestant preacher who is now serving a prison term after being convicted of visiting North Korea illegally.

"As has been planned before the visit, I believe, I have carried out works beneficial (to South Korea)," Pak said.

Pak said Moon had not planned to issue a joint statement with North Korean leaders since their trip was meant to be a visit to Moon's family members and for talks on possible economic cooperation. The idea of issuing a joint statement on their talks with North Korean leader Kim Il-song came up during the visit, he said.

He said he plans to explain details of the joint statement at a press conference and other meetings later.

North, South Church Leaders Plan Meeting

SK1601101892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—North and South Korean church leaders may meet in Seoul next month for the first time since division of the Korean peninsula half a century ago, the Rev. Kwon Ho-kyong said Thursday.

Kwon, who had just returned from North Korea, told a press conference that between five and 10 members of the North Korean Christian Federation would attend the 41st regular meeting of the Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC) Feb. 17.

Kwon, secretary-general of the council, said that he would consult with the Unification Board on their visit.

"I called on the northern side to permit a joint South-North Korean meeting of church leaders for the unification of the peninsula in Pyongyang in August," he said, adding that he had received an affirmative answer.

If the Pyongyang congregation was materialized, KNCC would send a 20-member delegation, he said.

Churchmen of both Koreas agreed to strive jointly to hold an inter-Korean meeting of Christians for unification in Seoul and Pyongyang in Switzerland in 1990.

Kwon met with North Korean President Kim Il-song at his home for about three hours and was told by Kim he was not against religion.

Released PRC Fishermen Refuse To Leave Port

SK1501131492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1238 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Cheju, South Korea, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—A group of 75 Chinese fishermen who were recently detained briefly here for violating the Korean territorial waters are refusing to leave the port here as of Wednesday evening, demanding their skippers be set free.

The local maritime police arrested Monday skippers of the four Chinese trawlers which were seized on Saturday but released all other fishermen and their boats allowing them to return to China.

The Chinese fishermen were unable to set sail because of a storm warning issued Sunday afternoon. They are still refusing to put out to sea even after the warning was lifted Tuesday afternoon.

The Chinese are saying they would not leave unless their skippers are released, police said.

The Chinese boats were taken to Cheju port after being captured by the Cheju maritime police at a point some 13.5 kilometers (7.5 miles) southwest of Cheju Island, or 8.1 kilometers into the South Korean territorial waters, Saturday afternoon.

The vessels were fishing illegally there along with 80 other Chinese boats, police said.

Sunkyong Ltd. To Import Crude Oil From China

SK1601102592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—Sunkyong Ltd. has signed a contract to import 1 million tons of crude oil from China this year with Sinochem, a company spokesman said Thursday.

Sunkyong has accounted for 90 percent of Korea's oil imports from China since it bought 200,000 tons in 1989.

The medium-quality, low-sulfur oil will be resold to Yukong Ltd. and the import price will follow international price fluctuations, the spokesman said.

Sinochem is a state-run import-export company dealing in petrochemical products under the umbrella of China's Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Ministry.

Korean Businesses Favor Small Investments Abroad

SK1501121992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0918 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—The lion's share of overseas investments by South Korean firms last year were less than $2 million, and most were designed to utilize cheap labor and stable supplies of raw materials, the Bank of Korea said Wednesday.

Of the 539 overseas investments the government approved last year, 84.6 percent did not exceed 2 million dollars, compared with 78 percent of in 1990, the central bank said.

The average investment was $2.98 million, down from 3.14 million dollars in 1990.

The number of overseas investment permits increased somewhat but their total value declined. The government approved 539 overseas investments totaling 1,606 million dollars, compared with 517 worth $1,625 million in 1990.

As of the end of last year, Korean companies had made 2,066 overseas investments totaling $5,067 million.

Manufacturing companies got most permits with 330, accounting for 61.2 percent, followed by trading companies with 19.5 percent and fisheries companies with 6.3 percent, according to the bank.

Southeast Asia had most investments (339 worth $660 million), followed by North America (98 worth $520 million) and Europe (44 worth $120 million).

Of investments by the manufacturing companies, 49.2 percent were in China and Southeast Asia.

China was top with 112 investments, followed by Indonesia with 49, and took all but 14 of those in communist countries.

Of the 126 investments worth $85 million, the Soviet Union was second with 10 worth $11 million and Hungary had two worth $3 million. Poland and Romania had one each, worth $200,000 and $500,000, respectively.

Hyundai Motor Company Labor Dispute Continues

Spreads to Related Industries

SK1601025892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—The ripple effects of the labor dispute at Hyundai Motor Co. is spreading to

steel, tire, electronics and other related industries, causing business losses in tens of billions of won, industry sources said Thursday.

Hyundai Motor Co. shut down five of its factories in Ulsan on the southeast coast Wednesday after unionized workers began to stage a go-slow to press their demand for a withdrawal of a law suit against their leaders and for additional payments of bonuses.

The go-slow was preceded by nearly a month-long dispute that has delayed the production at the country's largest auto manufacturing company, the sources said.

Steel companies including Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco) and Tong Bu Steel Co. have been forced to hold up their supplies of steel plates and zinc sheets, suffering losses amount to 14 billion won, the sources said.

Especially Posco, which has been supplying 40,000 tons of steel plates to the automaker every month had to reduce its supplies by one fourth to 30,000 tons since Dec. 17 when the labor dispute began at Hyundai Motor Co. with losses amounting to 12 billion won, the sources said.

They said Hyundai Motor stopped receiving supplies of steel plates from Jan. 13 all together. As a result, Pohang is now trying to export 1,300 tons of surplus steel plates, the sources added.

Hyundai Electronics Co., which had been supplying electronics parts to the automaker, has suffered some 4 billion won in losses as of Tuesday, according to the sources.

As for tire manufacturers, they said they have not felt serious effects so far as demands in both overseas and domestic markets are strong, although they had been supplying 10 percent of their products to Hyundai Motor. But the tire makers expect about 2 billion won in business losses if the labor dispute continues, the sources said.

They said suppliers of other parts such as bumpers, steering wheels and radiators also had to cut their productions by half.

Workers Rally; Warrants Issued

SK1601044292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Ulsan, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—Tension mounted at Hyundai Motor Co. here Thursday as more than 10,000 union workers held rallies, protesting against the decision by the nation's largest automaker to shut down five factories indefinitely from Wednesday.

The workers held the rallies after some 5,000 union members staged a sit-in overnight and built barricades with more than 50 brand-new automobiles to block the company's 13 gates. About 100 to 200 workers, armed with steel pipes, were guarding the gates.

Earlier, sit-in workers took tires off new automobiles and set them afire and destroyed identification checking machines at three main gates while others collected rocks to hurl at law-enforcement officials in case authorities decide to storm the company to evict them.

The labor dispute has been going on since mid-December over a set of demands by the union for, among others, additional 150 percent bonuses, withdrawal of a suit against union leaders and wage payments for workers while on strike.

On Wednesday afternoon, the company, declaring that it deemed any more negotiations with the union would be futile, shut down the factories indefinitely after the union began a go-slow strike partially paralyzing the production.

The company posted notices at the 13 main gates, explaining that passage through the gates would be controlled and that the "no work, no pay" principle would be enforced. The company also said it would shut down cafeterias and suspend company bus services.

Meanwhile, authorities said Wednesday they have issued arrest warrants for seven of the 33 union leaders who were accused by the management of obstructing production. Prosecutors said 26 other union leaders will also face legal action.

Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol warned Tuesday the government will mobilize "all conceivable means" to break up what he said was an illegal work stoppage at Hyundai Motor. He said the deployment of police forces is inevitable if the union keeps insisting on getting the extra bonuses which he said could not be a justifiable cause for labor disputes.

Labor unions of 36 other Hyundai group companies, meanwhile, threatened to wage "joint struggle," if government authorities send police forces into Hyundai Motor Co. to break up the strike.

Despite the union threat, however, the South Kyongsang Province police headquarters said it was ready to send some 20 riot police companies whenever authorities decide to do so.

Showroom Deliveries Halted

SK1601094092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0849 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—A worsening of the labor dispute at Hyundai Motor Co. has halted delivery to showrooms as the largest automaker has virtually run out of cars, a company spokesman said Thursday.

Hyundai had 2,330 cars at its plants in Ulsan on Thursday and orders for 37,510, he said.

The company had orders for 7,800 Excels and 6,200 Elantras, but had only 180 Excels and 370 Elantras, he said.

Hyundai shut down all five of its plants in the southeastern city Wednesday after unionized workers began a go-slow demanding special year-end bonuses.

"The inventory just can meet a day's orders. It is fair to say delivery has virtually stopped because we have to have a minimum stockpile," he said.

Hyundai showrooms have been inundated with calls asking for early delivery or canceling orders, he said.

Workers Occupy Main Building

SK1601140592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1322 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Ulsan, South Korea, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—About 300 unionized workers of Hyundai Motor Co. occupied the main office building of the company Thursday afternoon and barricaded entrances of the building apparently in preparation against possible police action to quell the labor-management dispute.

Some 30 reporters and company officials were let out of the building at around 5:50 p.m.

The company management, at the request of the labor union to withdraw from the main building, earlier moved secret documents and important equipment to a nearby building owned by Hyundai Motor Service Co.

Some 30,000 Hyundai workers began a go-slow at five factories in this industrial port city Wednesday. The prosecutor general's office decided to quell the go-slow by force.

Meanwhile, 5,000 executives and staff members of automobile parts suppliers staged a rally to call for an early end to the dispute.

Government-Invested Groups To Limit Raises

SK1501015692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—The government will guide 23 government-invested organizations such as Korea Electric Power Corp. and Korea Development Bank to settle wage negotiations with labor unions by March and hold the level of wage increases at 5 percent.

The government, taking an initiative in the ongoing "save 10-percent national campaign," has told these enterprises to try and save a total of 119.9 billion won from this year's budget and 14.6 billion won by conserving energy.

Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu gave the instructions to chairmen of the government corporations Tuesday [14 January] afternoon. Choe also told them to freeze the salaries of their executives and those of college graduate recruits at last year's level and make no behind-the-scene promises to labor unions during wage negotiations.

Labor unions at these state-run firms made no mention so far how much they are going to seek wage increases this year but they are expected to be considerably higher than 5 percent since consumer prices were said to have risen more than 9 percent.

Ministry Unveils Energy-Saving Strategies

SK1501061592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—Energy and Resources Minister Chin Nyom said Wednesday that vehicles owned by the government and public institutions will be kept off the road every 10th day from February in an energy-conservation drive.

The private sector will be encouraged to join the campaign, Chin said.

The government would grade the energy efficiency of cars, air conditioners, refrigerators and lights, and encourage people to buy those that use least energy, Chin told the leaders of 19 government-invested institutions under the ministry's umbrella.

Energy consumption by steel, ceramic, oil-processing and other fuel-hungry businesses will be controlled, and naphtha imports will be restrained unless they are for making export items.

The Ministry will check the temperature in large shops and office buildings from this month to ensure it is kept between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius in summer and between 18 and 20 degrees Celsius in winter.

Record Number of Maturing Bonds Redeemed in 1991

SK1501021092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0141 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—A record number of bonds reaching maturity in 1991 were redeemed with bonds, securities sources said Tuesday.

Corporate bonds maturing last year amounted to 5.459 trillion won, but only 31 percent were redeemed in cash. The comparable figures were 62 percent in 1989 and 44.7 percent in 1990.

The decline in cash redemption reflects a worsening of corporate liquidity and the tight money policy of the government.

Corporate bonds maturing this year are estimated at a record 7.623 trillion won, but refinancing is around 5 trillion won.

Issuing bonds to raise cash was discouraged in recent months by various factors, not least among them the high interest rates, the sources said.

Corporate bonds to be issued in February after final approval amount to 1.846 trillion won, down 33.4 percent from the amount approved for the same month last year, according to the sources.

Parties To Screen Candidates for Elections

SK1601095192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—The ruling and opposition parties are speeding up selection of candidates for the general elections this March.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] announced Thursday that it would accept applications from Jan. 25 for the 224 seats up for grabs across the country.

The opposition began screening Wednesday and plans to announce the first 100 candidates soon.

The DLP screening committee will be headed by party Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan and complete its task by Jan. 29. The DLP will announce those candidates approved by President No Tae-u on Jan. 31.

About 20 percent of the DLP's 155 lawmakers are likely to be dropped, party sources said.

The Democratic Party, jointly led by Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, will announce the first 100 candidates Jan. 20 if the two factions led by Kim and Yi reach agreement, and finalize candidates for the remaining constituencies by the middle of February.

Kim Tong-kil To Forge New Political Party

SK1501080492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0718 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—Former Professor Kim Tong-kil said Wednesday that the Pacific Era Committee he formed in late 1991 would be forged into a political party by mid-February.

He had decided to inaugurate the tentatively named Saehan Party to bring the nation together, restore morals and break the political dominance of ruling party leader Kim Yong-sam and opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, Kim said.

"People distrust politicians, regardless of which party they belong to, and it prompted the economic collapse," he said.

Kim said at least 150 promoters would initiate the party around Jan. 23 and complete formation of district chapters before formal inauguration in mid-February.

He did not rule out the possibility of joining hands with the unification national party launched by Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong if he was called to create a new political force.

A merger of the two fledgling parties would crack the existing political power because the Saehan Party seeks to win over 100 seats and Chong aims at 20 seats in the general elections this March, he said.

The party platform called for legislation on public use of land, use of real names in financial transactions, formation of a multilateral security mechanism and military cutbacks, Kim said.

Independent Rep. Pak Chan-chong, who plans to join his Political Reform Committee with the Saehan Party, said he wanted Kim to take the leadership but admitted that it should be decided in a reasonable and democratic manner.

McDonnell Douglas, Others Vie for Launch Project

SK1201041092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Jan 92 p 3

[By staff reporter Sim Yong-su]

[Text] Who will take the $90 million contract to send Korea's first two communication satellites into orbit in 1995?

All of the world's five satellite launch service firms are expected to vie for the project, the first of its kind in Korea, according to the host of the international bid, Korea Telecom [KT].

They are McDonnell Douglas and General Dynamics of the United States, Arianespace of France, Great Wall Industry Corp. of China and Glavkosmos of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

McDonnell Douglas and Arianespace are favored to win the contract because of their experience and the high reliability of their services, according to KT officials.

Arianespace has already launched 73 commercial satellites, using its trademark "Arian" rocket, and has secured contracts to send 33 more satellites in coming years, KT officials said.

McDonnell Douglas is slightly behind Arianespace in experience with commercial satellites but its "Delta" rocket may be more reliable than "Arian", KT officials said on the condition of anonymity.

But the Delta rocket has a technical defect which the Arian does not: a high launching degree, KT officials said.

Delta requires a 20.8 degrees of launch inclination against a mere seven degrees of Arian, they said.

The launch degree of Atlas is 15.6 and that of China's "Long March" rocket is 28, the officials said.

The contract will be given to the firm which has proven reliability of its service but also has the best offer for other conditions, including the price and technology, the officials said.

KT is to receive bidding proposals Feb. 20 and to select the winner by the end of April, they said.

KT will use the same method which it used in selection of supplier of communication satellites.

KT will select two firms which offer the best conditions through screening of bidding proposals and then conduct final negotiations with the two companies to draw the best possible terms.

One of the two satellites which will become the main satellite will be fired into orbit in April 1995. The second one which will serve as a reserve will go into orbit in October 1995, KT officials said.

The reserve satellite is to be called into service in case the main one breaks down, the officials said.

The two satellites, each weighing slightly over 600kg, have capacities for 3,900 two-way voice circuits, three TV broadcasting channels and four video transmission channels.

General Electric [GE] of the United States has won the $145 million contract to supply Korea with two communication satellites and related ground facilities.

Once the satellites start service, KT officials said, TV viewers in the whole Korean peninsula, western Japan and southeastern China bordering North Korea will be able to watch South Korean television programs.

Of the five anticipated bidders for the Korean project, KT said, Delta rocket has the longest experience and has proven its excellent reliability. The first Delta rocket was fired into orbit in 1960.

But one probably critical defect is that it has a smaller payload than other types of rockets.

GE's Atlas rocket has been primarily used for the United States' space exploration satellites, though it recently began to vie for commercial satellites launch service, KT said.

Arian rocket has made big commercial success since it made its debut in 1979.

Arian rocket has about the same propulsion power as Atlas but it can send two satellites into orbit simultaneously.

China's Long March rocket is at a disadvantage in experience but has a great advantage in terms of price.

A KT official said that China has offered to send into orbit foreign commercial satellites at one-third of the cost of its Western rivals.

The four-stage Proton rocket of the Commonwealth of Independent States can place its payload directly into geostationary transfer point from its launch site in Baikonour.

But its lack of experience in dealing with commercial payloads may become a decisive defect in its bid for the Korean project, KT officials said.

But China and the Commonwealth of Independent States did not participate in the KT-hosted explanation session this week about the Korean project.

KT officials, however, said that the two countries have expressed their intentions to bid for the project.

KT will place less emphasis on the transfer of technology in selection of the launch service firm than it did on the selection of its communication satellite supplier, KT officials said.

In the selection of satellite suppliers, KT officials said, it has placed top priority on technology transfers because it plans to acquire sufficient technology to make a communication satellite on its own through the project.

But, in the case of rocket launch service, they said, Korea does not hope to acquire much by way of technology transfers and can not do so, even if it wanted to, because of international supervision on the transfer of technology with major military applications.

To build a launching pad to send its own satellites into orbit does not make economic sense, either, they said.

YONHAP, NOTIMEX Sign Exchange Agreement

SK1501122592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1152 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 15 (YONHAP)—YONHAP NEWS AGENCY has concluded a news exchange and cooperation agreement with NOTIMEX of Mexico.

YONHAP President Hyon So-hwan and Pablo Hiriart le Bert, visiting general director of the state-run NOTIMEX, signed the agreement Wednesday.

Under the agreement, YONHAP's English language news stories will be distributed through the Mexican news agency's network to the Central and South American regions. YONHAP will supply NOTIMEX's news articles to subscribers in Korea, Japan and the American region.

YONHAP maintains similar agreements with seven East European news agencies, including TASS and NOVOSTI, QNA of Qatar, WAM of the United Arab Emirates and TAP of Tunisia.

Burma

Army Offensive Against Karen Rebels Continues

BK1401153892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 14 (AFP)—Burmese military commanders aiming to seize the main headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) guerrillas in southeastern Burma have launched ground and air attacks against rebel positions, an opposition official said Tuesday.

An officer with a parallel Burmese Government based in the jungle said Burma's forces had suffered heavy casualities in the offensive.

Some 2,000 Burmese infantrymen had attacked well-defended positions around the village of Malehtta, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of the KNU's Manerplaw headquarters, the officer said.

The village was defended by a mixed contingent of about 600 anti-Rangoon rebels united under the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) umbrella organization, he added.

Six Burmese Air Force planes also bombed Malehtta twice in one day to soften the guerrilla defence positions, he said, adding the village was almost entirely destroyed.

Rebels had evacuated elderly people, women and children to safe sanctuaries in southern Karen State near the border with Thailand, he said.

"The major battle, which began on Saturday and was continuing at the time of report, took place around Malehtta," said the officer, adding that the Burmese infantry suffered losses estimated at 180 killed and wounded.

According to the officer, the guerrillas who were well protected in their bunkers and other fixed positions, had suffered minor losses.

Meanwhile, Thai forces in the northwestern border region opposite the battle zone in Burma have been put on alert to prevent a possible spillage of the fighting into Thailand, border sources said.

Karens Use 'Tactical Surprises'

BK1501122792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 15 (AFP)—Burmese troops continue to suffer heavy casualities in a dry-season offensive to capture the headquarters of an anti-Rangoon rebel group in southeastern Burma, a Thai border official said on Wednesday.

A fierce battle is raging near the northwestern and southwestern approaches to Manerplaw, the Karen National Union's (KNU) main headquarters, the official said by telephone.

The Burmese Government troops are suffering heavy casualties in their assaults against well dug-in Karen positions and from guerrilla ambushes, the Thai Border Patrol Police (BPP) officer said.

"The Burmese Army's 22nd and 44th divisions and elements of the 66th Light Infantry Battalion, with an estimated combined strength of nearly 20,000 men, are advancing on Manerplaw from the northwest and southwest, but suffering very heavy losses," the officer said.

The Karen guerrillas, despite being out-numbered and running low on ammunition, have gained the advantage over the Burmese with tactical surprises, the officer said.

Manerplaw is headquarters of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), the umbrella organization of some dozen ethnic minority rebel groups fighting for regional automony, and also the seat of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), the anti-Rangoon parallel government.

The 55th Division is attacking Pah Poon and Mae Wang villages northwest of Manerplaw, and the 22nd and 44th Divisions attacking Ka Teng Tee and Maka Maung villages to the southwest, while the 66th is bringing up the rear, the officer said.

"The three-pronged assault aims to push the KNU back towards the Thai border, trap them with their backs against the Salaween River," the officer said.

"On at least two occassions, the Karens, to off-set their inferior strength, tricked the Burmese into over-running their positions. After the take over, the Burmese were bombarded by the KNU's heavy mortars, which were firing on pre-set targets," the officer said.

"Such deceptive tactics have cost the Burmese dearly," the officer said.

The Burmese have suffered over 200 killed and wounded since the offensive began two weeks ago, but losses among the guerrillas were "less than half of that number," he said.

"Rangoon must be willing to sacrifice a lot of men to capture Manerplaw this year," the BPP officer said. "The Burmese have launched their offensive early this year, and it seems that they are determined to push the Karens back against the Salaween River this dry season."

Thailand, fearing that trouble in Burma could spill over the border, is closely monitoring the fighting in the neighboring state.

2d Brigade Headquarters Captured

BK1501093092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] The KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents from the KNU 2d Brigade and the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] terrorist insurgents have been causing destruction by planting mines on

railway lines and motor roads, and by blowing up bridges and electrical power pylons, in the (Busarchi) and (Pyaungmasoe) areas of Thandaung township in the southern military command region.

The Armed Forces columns under the southern military command lauched an operation between 19 December 1991 and 8 January 1992 and captured the KNU 2d Brigade headquarters at (Palaw-Mude) camp on 29 December.

One battle and nine skirmishes took place in the assault on the KNU camp and three terrorist insurgents were captured dead while one was captured alive. The Armed Forces also seized four small arms and one (icon) radio transmitter.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Indonesia's EAEC Proposal Termed 'Positive'

BK1601090092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0822 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia views Indonesia's suggestion for adjustments to the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) as a positive development, Foreign Minister Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Thursday.

Malaysia was keeping an open mind to suggestions to further upgrade the EAEC framework, he said.

The caucus was originally an initiative by Malaysia to promote free trade and counter protectionism.

"If they (Indonesia) has some ideas to further advance the EAEC, I think we will definitely look into it," he told reporters after opening the fourth Southeast Asia Forum here.

Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said the republic was proposing adjustments to the EAEC concept and framework in the light of recent international developments, including strong indication that Japan would not participate in the caucus.

Arifin said Indonesia felt the adjustments were necessary to make the proposed caucus compatible to already established economic groupings such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and the European Community.

Abdullah, however, said Malaysia would like to hear Indonesia's proposed adjustments to the EAEC before making a stand and had yet to be formally informed of the matter.

He said the matter did not catch Malaysia by surprise because Indonesia had been thinking of the EAEC all the while.

ASEAN heads of government would discuss the EAEC at their summit meeting in Singapore later this month. The proposal was adopted at the ASEAN economic ministers meeting here last October.

"We can expect the EAEC will not be abandoned after the summit," Abdullah said.

On the possibility of more South East Asian countries joining ASEAN, Abdullah said he believed the expansion of ASEAN was inevitable. "We certainly welcome other states to join us," he said, adding that the matter, however, had to be discussed first among ASEAN members.

"I have heard that the Indochinese countries have agreed to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (with ASEAN). Certainly that's a good start," he said.

Paper Wants Thai Border Intruders Arrested

BK1501152792 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 30 Dec 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Firmly Oppose Intrusions"]

[Text] Thai officials have repeated their intrusions into Malaysian territory in Padang Besar. There were four reported intrusions this month alone on the 14th, 16th, 20th, and 22d. In the latest incident, fully armed Thai officials entered Padang Besar and confiscated goods belonging to Malaysian traders worth about 1,000 ringgit on the pretext of preventing smuggling.

The December incidents were not the first ones perpetrated by the Thai authorities. On 30 June, they did the same thing. Then, 30 Thai officers encroached into Padang Besar and seized our traders' goods worth 28,000 ringgit.

The incidents have created tension along the border. To reduce such tension, the governor of Songkhla had personally called on the sultan of Perlis to apologize for the unrefined behavior of his officials.

He also gave his assurance that such things would not happen again. To appease Malaysia, the Songkhla chief police, who had masterminded the 30 June intrusion, was transferred back to Bangkok.

The situation returned to normal after the governor's visit but not for long. About three months after the official apology, another intrusion occurred. This is something tragic and it shows the failure of the Thai authorities to keep their word.

It is normal for us to take a serious view of such forays, which not only violate international law, but also display a lack of good-neighborliness on the part of the Thais. Without proper attention, a border conflict with more serious implications for both countries may erupt.

For the sake of the interests of both countries, it is hoped that the Thai officials will act more wisely in the future. We do understand that they, like our officials assigned along the border, are in charge of preventing the

increasing smuggling of oil, palm oil, and even food into Thai territory. The smuggling activities have prevented them from collecting customs duties.

However, they must take proper action and cannot intrude into another country's territory because such actions will only create tension. The rowdy behavior of several Thai officials will certainly not help restore the strained relations between the two countries.

For this latest incident, the Thai Government should not only ask for an apology, which has been demanded by the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth Wing. They should also ensure that these intrusions will not be repeated.

The Malaysian Government must also demand for more concrete assurance from the Thai side on those incidents, either at the General Border Commission meetings or other bilateral forums.

We trust that whatever problems arising in the border areas can be solved nicely. On its part, Malaysia should not give the impression that it tends to take a conciliatory attitude every time there is a border intrusion by the Thais.

Such an attitude will only encourage more intrusions. Those who encroach into our territory must be arrested and be tried under the existing laws so others will learn the lesson.

Cambodia

SRV, Phnom Penh Troops Prepare for Attack

BK1601013392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] According to a report from Bavel District [Battambang Province], some 5,000 Vietnamese and Phnom Penh troops from the district seat have gathered in preparation for launching new onslaughts on our liberated areas.

The report added that actually the Vietnamese aggressors have attacked our liberated areas since 9 January. Our national Army captured a Vietnamese soldier while a group of Vietnamese troops were operating in the liberated zones.

This is evidence that the Vietnamese aggressors have never abided by the accord. The Cambodian people have unambiguously known their true nature and are prepared to do whatever they can to safeguard and implement the Paris peace accord to put an end to the Vietnamese aggressors' war.

Indonesian Minister Alatas Arrives for Visit

BK1601121492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1058 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 16—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas arrived here this morning for a three-day official visit to Camoodia.

Mr. Ali Alatas, co-chairman of PICC [Paris International Conference on Cambodia], is scheduled to meet with SNC [Supreme National Council] Chairman Prince Sihanouk, Prime Minister Hun Sen, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, and representatives of Perm Five.

The Indonesian foreign minister is to visit the national museum, the silver pagoda, the Tuol Sleng genocidal museum, the SNC headquaters in Phnom Penh, and Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap Province.

In December last year, Roland Dumas, French foreign minister and co-chairman of the PICC, paid an official visit to Cambodia.

Standing Committee's Sar Kheng Meets French Envoy

BK1201132192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Sar Kheng—member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chef de cabinet of the CPP Central Committee, and chairman of the Organizational Commission of the CPP Central Committee—received H.E. Philippe Coste, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Cambodia, at the CPP Central Committee office on the morning of 9 January.

At the meeting H.E. Sar Kheng said the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] is consistently abiding by and implementing the Paris peace accord on Cambodia, and he called on other parties concerned to do likewise. He also briefed the French ambassador on the result of the process of implementing the national reunification policy in the past and the outcome achieved in executing the policy adopted at the CPP's recent extraordinary session.

For his part, H.E. Philippe Coste said he was pleased with the implementation of the Cambodian peace accord for ending the war, thereby allowing for the reconstruction of Cambodia. He expressed the hope that peace will certainly return to Cambodia.

Ranariddh's 14 Jan Statement to VOA Upheld

BK1601001192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] In an interview with a Voice of America correspondent on 14 January 1992, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], said as soon as the special representative of the UN

secretary general arrived in Phnom Penh, he would immediately return to the capital city to fully cooperate on an appropriate and correct implementation of the Paris accord.

The prince's statement is fully in conformity with the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The Paris accord demands that the SNC chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] join hands to fully execute the accord, specifically to verify and make sure that the Vietnamese withdraw their aggressor forces of all ilks from Cambodia.

Only through a total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia under a joint verification by the SNC in conjunction with the UNTAC can the Cambodian nation and people regain security, peace, national unity, and independence.

Phnom Penh Proposal at SNC Meeting Hailed

BK1501085392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 92

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "An Important Proposal That Needs Be Respected and Implemented for Peace"—date not given]

[Text] During the second meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] on 11 January, SNC members from the State of Cambodia [SOC] faction raised a most important proposal in the form of a measure to prevent in a timely manner all irresponsibilities over gross violations of the Paris peace accord.

In this proposal, the SOC SNC members demanded that all parties represented in the SNC pledge from now that they will absolutely respect the cease-fire in place. Also, they must end all movement of troops, arms, and ammunition, and solemnly declare that all robberies, arson, attacks, and other acts of terrorism against the people are condemned and that they will be prevented from recurring. They must also ensure that existing village- and commune-level administrations that have been replaced by village- and commune-level national councils be dismantled as they constitute violations of the Cambodian political accord .

It is true that although the Cambodian accord has been signed by the Cambodian factions and 18 countries in the presence of the UN secretary general, breaches have repeatedly taken place. These have raised the serious concern of those who truly have the desire of seeing Cambodians enjoy genuine peace once again.

His Excellency SNC member Hun Sen, during the first SNC meeting on 30 December 1991, already raised his reservation about the state of the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and expressed other views related to its military aspect. After the Paris accord went into effect, lately such activities as robberies, arson, massacres, and harassments and other acts of terrorism against the people in the villages and communes have occurred repeatedly.

In fact, in Kompong Thom Province on 5 January from 100 to 150 polpotist troops of Division 616 under the direct leadership of Nhan, commander of Pol Pot's Division 616, attacked and shelled Damrei Slap Village, Kompong Svay District. On 6 January, the enemy launched an artillery-supported infantry attack against our position and robbed our people of their property. Particularly, on 7 January when the people were celebrating the anniversary of their rebirth, the polpotists fired two H-107 rockets into Krachap village, Ward No.9 of the provincial city of Kompong Thom. Along with these acts of robberies, massacres, and harassments, they have also undertaken political activities by announcing the dismantling of village- and commune-level administrations and their replacement with so-called village- and commune-level SNC. This constitutes an irrefutable breach of the peace accord and is aimed at creating political instability and danger for the upcoming elections.

Greatly worried by the disturbances provoked by those trying to subvert Cambodia's peace to prolong the Cambodian people's suffering and misery, our people have expressed their satisfaction and full support for the proposal made by the SNC members from the SOC faction. We firmly hope that the UN Advance Mission and the Mixed Military Working Group of the four Cambodian factions will cooperate with one another in exposing and eliminating the armed military bands that have constantly harassed the people, endangering to the implementation of the peace accord [words indistinct] for stability and safety, so that peace and national reconciliation can really take place in Cambodia. We hope that all parties represented in the SNC will strictly respect and implement their pledge not only in words but most importantly in actual deeds.

Prisoner Release Called 'Real Step Forward'

BK1501122692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 15 Jan 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 15 (AFP)—Nearly 300 prisoners of war and conscience walked from their dark cells onto a bright Phnom Penh street Wednesday, the first to be released under a peace treaty ending the Cambodian civil war.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supervised the release, as mandated by the peace treaty signed by the four factions in October.

"I am free," declared jubilant Chhouk Im Sean, a 40-year-old self-proclaimed spy for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) loyal to former

prime minister Son Sann, as he scanned a waiting crowd for his wife and family members.

"I was in a dark cell for five years," he said. "Now I am very happy to have freedom."

Prince Norodom Sihanouk gave each of the the 110 political prisoners and 80 prisoners of war—including four women and a 21-month-old baby girl— his blessing, along with a sarong and a krama (traditional cloth and scarf). He told them to go in peace and make trouble no more.

"We must obey the cease-fire. We cannot hate each other. We have to trust each other. We have to follow the ways of Buddha," he told the prisoners, crouched obediently before their release, in the courtyard of the downtown French colonial prison, named T-3.

"If we want to have democracy, we will have many parties and many different opinions," the prince said. "We have to respect each other."

ICRC director Jean-Jacques Fresard said weeks of delicate negotiations with the Phnom Penh Government and pressure from Prince Sihanouk were responsible for softening what had been a hard line by the Phnom Penh Government in allowing ICRC inspections.

"It's good news, more than just the release of prisoners," Fresard said. "It's a real step forward" for the whole peace process.

Ambassadors representing the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, along with the head of the U.N. advance mission here also attended the release ceremony.

"This shows the peace process is working without the strong presence of the United Nations," one of the Western diplomat said.

Most of the prisoners clutching their meagre belongings and blinking unbelievingly into the crowd outside the prison said they belonged to the Son Sann group.

None interviewed were from Phnom Penh, and those without family to greet them wondered how they were going to get home. The prison authorities gave them each 3,500 riel (about six dollars).

"I don't know how much anything costs now because I've been in prison for 12 years," said 54-year-old Soy Sang, who sought to return to his home in Battambang, 300 kilometers (190 miles) away.

Under the menacing surveillance of secret police outside the gate, he was reluctant to say whether he would return to his former vocation of rallying believers to Son Sann's cause.

Several people said they never engaged in political activity, but were found to be guilty by association. Pech Ky, 26, said she was caught in the central province of Siem Reap with her KPNLF soldier husband when she was two months pregnant. Her baby was born in prison.

"I am not angry," she said. "Life is a struggle."

None of the prisoners complained of ill treatment.

Under the Paris peace accords ending the civil war here, all of the previously warring factions must submit to ICRC criteria for monitoring the release of prisoners.

The ICRC requires that it have unrestricted and repeated access to all prisons and prisoners, and that it log their names and personal information.

On Tuesday, ICRC teams recorded the identities of prisoners, checked their health and living standards and held private talks with them for the first time.

They registered 108 from the city's T-3 prison and 182 from a second site a half hour's drive from downtown. All those prisoners were transferred to T-3 for the release, which was delayed until mid-afternoon so Prince Sihanouk could attend.

The ICRC will aim to inspect prisons in every Cambodian territory by January 23—three months from the signing of the peace treaty, Fresard said.

According to Phnom Penh government figures given to the ICRC, this government held 1,260 prisoners of war and conscience.

The KPNLF and FUNCINPEC say they hold no prisoners, and the Khmer Rouge have made vague statements, according to the ICRC.

Sihanouk Receives Victims of Khmer Rouge Banditry

BK1401072592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] In an audience held at Khemarin Palace in the afternoon of 11 January, His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, cordially received representatives of the victims of Khmer Rouge banditry from several provinces, such as Kandal, Kompong Speu, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, and Kampot.

The representatives informed H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk of the savage acts of robbery recently conducted by the Khmer Rouge party against the people following the signing of the Paris peace agreement, acts which resulted in the deaths of a number of their people and damage to their property.

H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his condolences to his children and said he would do whatever possible in the interests of the Cambodian people as a whole.

Say Chhum Closes 1992 Planning Work Meeting

BK1301103592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The 1992 planning work meeting successfully concluded on the evening of 11 January under the chairmanship of Say Chhum, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

For two days from 10 to 11 January, the delegates heard reports and meticulously debated the weak and strong points on the work of ministries and municipal and provincial services. They also set the direction of major measures to be implemented to ensure efficiency in national and social construction.

Closing the meeting, Say Chhum highly appreciated the results of the debate and the determination of delegates from various municipal and provincial ministries and services. It clearly reflected the optimism and the great attention of the delegates on the glorious future of the country and nation.

Say Chhum stressed that all of them will face new tasks in economic and social management in 1992. Therefore, first of all, municipal and provincial ministries and services should continue with their leadership role. They should also adopt appropriate working procedures, be leanly staffed and competently carry out economic management reforms according to the macro-economy model to ensure financial and foreign currency stability. Therefore, the implementation of the market economy does not mean just the privatization of state enterprises, the liberalization of foreign trade activities, and the free circulation of agricultural products by peasants at agreed prices. It is also necessary to have an appropriate administrative structure with sufficient law and regulations to ensure a stable social life and an appropriate and proportional progress.

Finally, Say Chhum called on all members to implement major tasks of the State of Cambodia's Government set out in the 1992 plan after returning to their localities. They should also ensure financial and foreign currency stability and stability in production and the people's daily life. This would also create a good prelude for social and economic development in the coming years.

Pol Saroeun Visits Fourth, Fifth Military Regions

BK1101125592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] On the 13th anniversary of the 7 January National Day, a Defense Ministry delegation led by senior Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun—member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and chief of the General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF]—visited our cadres and combatants in the Fourth and Fifth Military Regions in Battambang and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces.

Chatting with leaders of various armed units in the Fifth Military Region, senior Lt. Gen. Pol Saroeun spoke about the current national and international situation on the implementation of the Cambodian peace accord signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. He also conveyed greetings from top CPP and government leaders to all the cadres and combatants who were able to surmount all obstacles to safeguard the tradition of keeping themselves as the people's army and to fight off all kinds of destructive activities of the Polpotist group that violated the peace accord against fellow compatriots.

At a meeting with cadres and combatants from various armed units in the Fourth Military Region, Colonel Nguon Ok, commander of Division 179, briefed them about the situation in his zone of control since 23 October 1991. He said the Polpotist group has continued to encroach upon a number of areas where our people lived, but they were thwarted by the 179th Division on a timely basis. Colonel Nguon Ok added that at present, the cadres and combatants of his division were actively involved in mass motivation work, assisting our people in their rice harvests so that the people got to like them and provided them with the necessary aid for their living.

On that occasion, senior Lt. Gen. Pol Saroeun highly esteemed the efforts of cadres and combatants in the Fourth Military Region to appropriately nurture the Army's tradition and their firm determination to maintain security for our people and to enrich our Army's tradition.

Rice, Fish, Timber, Rubber Production Reported

BK1201104292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0419 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 12—Farmers in Cambodia have so far harvested 50,230 ha out of 1.7 million hectares of rice grown in the rainy season with an average yield of 1.35 tons per hectare.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that rice growing during the last rainy season increased by 204,300 ha over the previous season despite flood in August.

Rice growing is one of the four economic spearheads in Cambodia among fishing, timber and rubber exploitation.

Farmers also grew 9,500 ha of rice in this dry season out of an earmarked area of 150,000 ha, according to the ministry.

Meanwhile, Cambodian fishermen netted 8,750 tons of fish or one-eighth of the seasonal river fishing target in 1992, the ministry said. The state earned 2,609 million riels from leasing fishing lots to fishermen.

Last season, the fishermen topped the yearly target by 33 percent of fresh-water fish with the total volume of fish

catch attained 74,700 tons and 35 percent on sea with the catch of 33,040 tons. [sentence as received]

After timber exploitation was also marked with fine results with the total timber volume cut last year amounting to 208,890 cubic metres, the ministry said.

Cambodia also exported 127,050 cubic metres of timber and 534,300 cubic metres of sawn wood.

In rubber production, the workers extracted latex on 51,570 ha, fulfilling the yearly target and produced 22,370 tons of dehydrated latex, or 54 percent of the plan.

Cambodia also earned 573 million riel and 578,300 U.S. dollars from tourism in the first 10 months last year.

Indonesia

Government Agrees to U.S. Request to Aid CIS

BK1601114292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 16 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia will meet the United States' request for assistance in developing the economy of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], Junior Trade Minister Sudrajad Jiwandono told the press on Thursday.

Indonesia will primarily provide technical, energy, and food assistance for the CIS, the minister said.

U.S. President George Bush has written to President Suharto, asking Indonesia's help in developing the economy of the former Soviet Union, he said, adding that U.S Secretary of State James Baker had also written the same request to his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas.

Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance, and Industry Radius Prawiro has named Jiwandono for attending an international conference which will be held in Washington on January 22-23 to discuss coordination of efforts to assist the CIS.

The U.S.-initiated conference will be attended by delegates from 60 countries.

Assistance to be provided by Indonesia and other countries will be short term in nature but adjusted to the CIS long-term development scheme, particularly for developing market economy and democracy.

Indonesia itself is still receiving external aid. But its assistance for the CIS will show that it has the experience in managing external debts, the minister said in reply to a question.

He said that the CIS can use funds it receives abroad to buy Indonesian goods.

Technical assistance which Indonesia offers to the CIS will include family planning and experience in oil explorations.

Referring to trade and economic cooperation with the CIS, the minister said that the Indonesian entrepreneurs need support from many sectors such as banking and insurance.

One of the problems facing the Indonesian businessmen with their partners in the former Soviet Union is that the CIS do not have enough funds, Jiwandono said.

Therefore, both sides need to explore unconventional trade such as counter-purchase system, the minister added.

The unconventional ways of trade have to be applied because the CIS members are potential trade partners for Indonesia in the future, he explained.

Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said recently that the government and businessmen who had established trade relations with the former Soviet Union would continue to monitor the developments in the CIS.

Indonesia had to monitor the developments of, among others, the CIS' overseas trading and foreign exchange systems, Siregar said.

Minister Previews ASEAN Summit, Trade Group

BK1501102292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0925 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 15 (OANA-ANTARA)—The ASEAN summit in Singapore late this month has to discuss the presence of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) as it is now almost certain that Japan will not become a member as hoped for due to U.S. pressure.

The question is, shall the EAEC go on though Japan, which had been expected to become a core member, will now not participate, Trade Minister Arifin Siregar asked after briefing President Suharto on preparations for the summit on Wednesday.

Several years ago, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed proposed the setting up of an East Asian Economic Group (EAEG). The ASEAN economic ministers in their meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October last year, agreed on a revamped version—the EAEC.

The proposed members include all the ASEAN countries, Japan, South Korea, and China.

President Suharto on Wednesday held a two-hour meeting with Coordinating Minister Radius Prawiro, Arifin Siregar, Industry Minister Hartarto, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Minister/State Secretary Murdiono.

The ASEAN summit will be held on January 27-28.

There has been a new development regarding the EAEC, Arifin told reporters.

He said: "The United States is against a group, to which Japan was invited to join, while the United States is deliberately excluded."

The ASEAN economic ministers had approved the establishment of EAEC but the association's foreign ministers have not even formally discuss it.

There will be meetings of the economic ministers and the foreign ministers in Singapore just prior to the summit.

Arifin Siregar also reported to President Suharto the progress of the Uruguay Round, a trade and multilateral negotiation attended by GATT members. He noted that GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel had issued last December a report on the progress of the negotiation.

Indonesia, he said, was very interested in the negotiation's result. The Uruguay Round's failure will lead to an uncertain condition of the world trade that will in turn have an impact on Indonesia's economy.

He said, however, that if the negotiation succeeded Indonesia had to open more of its market in accordance with the take-and-give principle.

At the meeting, President Suharto said that Indonesia needed to prepare itself to anticipate the negotiation's results.

Suharto Installs 13 New Ambassadors 15 Jan

BK1501151292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0911 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Jan.15 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto installed 13 Indonesian ambassadors at State Palace, here, Wednesday.

The 13 ambassadors are respectively Abdul Salam Gani to Poland, Juana W. to Vietnam, R.M. Suliman Pringgodigdo to Hungary, Sanyoto Pamungkas to Yugoslavia and Greece, R. Ismail Rhousdhi Suryaatmaja to Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia, Widodo Atmosutirto to Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus, Abdul Irham to New Zealand, Fiji, and Western Zamoa, Junaedi Sutisna Winata to Mexico, Cuba, and Panama, Abdullatief Taman to Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay, Major General Sudarmadi to Malaysia, Major General (retired) Pieter Damanik to the Philippines, Mrs. Tetty Chaterina Antoinette Latupapua to Norway and Iceland, and D.M. Ruru to Venezuela, Trinided, Tobago, and Equador.

Among those present in the ceremony were Vice President and Mrs. Sudharmono as well as several cabinet ministers.

Jakarta Hosts Seminar on Aviation Terrorism

BK1501085692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0811 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, January 15 (OANA-ANTARA)—All countries must work together against terrorism on civilian aircraft which has claimed hundreds of innocent people's lives.

This is the conclusion of a seminar on "Civil Aviation and Terrorism" held by the International Forum Indonesia here on Tuesday, attended by Indonesian Police Chief Lieutenant General Kunarto, foreign diplomats, members of parliament, journalists, politicians, academics and representatives from national and foreign airlines.

As an anticipatory measure [words indistinct] of terrorism on civilian aircraft, the Indonesian police has taken various precautionary steps such as sending personnel to Britain and Germany for training, Kunarto said.

Airports in the country have followed international civil aviation security requirements, the head of the Directorate of Flight Safety of the Ministry of Communications, Sartono, said.

Emphasizing the significance of all countries' involvement in the efforts of preventing terrorist threats on civilian aircraft, Marcel Beding, a parliament member, said that "there have been voices calling for a high-level conference to discuss the danger of terrorism."

A total of 50,000 terrorism acts occured within 15 years until 1988, which means 3,333 acts a year, he said.

He said there were two million men and women trained for terrorism in 220 camps across the world and there were 50 terrorist groups coordinated centrally for certain countries' interests mostly to destabilize the world particularly the Western countries. Marcel Beding, who is a member of the presidium of the International Forum Indonesia, said that terrorism had turned into a global crisis.

In connection with this, the chairman of the forum, Jusuf Ronodipuro, appealed to the world civilized society to work collectively to fight terrorism to ensure security and safety of civil aircraft.

A university lecturer from the National University, Dr. Suteja Armowarsito, said in the 20th century terrorists had used methods such as murders, blasting, armed attacks, hijacking and hostage-holding.

Sharing others' views, Suteja said it was necessary to increase international cooperation in an effort to destroy international terrorism rings.

Philippines

Demands for American Citizen's Release Rejected

HK1601054592 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 16 Jan 92 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] Negotiations for the release of a former American serviceman and two other soldiers held captive by communist guerillas in Northern Luzon have bogged down after the military rejected the guerillas' demand for the withdrawal of all government forces in the region.

General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, said there would be no troop withdrawal in the region and indicated that a "daring" rescue operation would be launched instead.

"We have lost so many lives to be where we are now," he said in a radio interview at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. Pulling out combat units from where they are stationed would "lower their morale and raise the prospect of more casualties when they have to retake the areas they have abandoned to give way to the rebels' demand."

The military has turned the Cordilleras into what they called the "final battleground" in their effort to "constrict" the guerillas' movements in the rugged terrain of the region.

Abadia said they are "bracing for a series of heavy firefights in the Cordilleras" as more than 8,000 soldiers have been deployed in the region for the immediate dismantling of the insurgents' political and armed structures.

Another Army general, Emiliano Templo, claimed the dialogs initiated by the Catholic church to facilitate the release of former U.S. Army Major Arvey Duane Drown and two other Filipino soldiers, held captive for more than a year by the guerillas in Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao, hit a snag because of the rebels' additional demand for "total troop withdrawal" in the region.

Templo said they have agreed to suspend their operations in the Pinukpuk Conner area in Kalinga-Apayao to pave the way for the release of the three hostages but would never give in to the other demands.

"I believe that we have given them enough leeway, we would not risk bending too far to jeopardize the security of our forces in that area," he added.

Templo said the 10-day truce which the military approved in the area was "reasonable enough" to facilitate the hostages' release.

He said this was the same formula that both the military and the rebels have agreed upon in the release of four young Army lieutenants who were also taken captive by the guerillas in the Bondoc Peninsula barely four years ago.

Templo said they would not back out from their position but would agree to halt their offensive operations in case the rebels are ready to free their hostages.

Templo is scheduled to dialog with local and church leaders in Tuguegarao today to find other ways to work the hostages' release.

Trade Secretary Says Subic Attracting Investors

HK1601054892 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 16 Jan 92 p 9

[By Elizabeth Perez]

[Text] Subic base's facilities have been attracting local and foreign investors, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Garrucho Jr. said.

Keppel Phils, Shipyard, Inc. is interested in Subic's ship repair facilities, he said.

The other night, a prominent business leader said he had gone to Subic to check these facilities. He said he was thinking of forming a joint venture and believed that everything would depend on whether or not the Americans leave the facilities behind.

He said it might be advisable to buy the facilities if the Americans would not leave them behind.

A Middle East group wants to employ the services of computer programmers and technicians who will be displaced in July when Subic shall have been turned over to the government by the U.S. Garrucho said.

He said an estimated $30 million is needed to develop and market Subic Naval Base over three to five years. In the case of Clark Air Base, which sustained more serious damage from the massive ashfall and mudflows triggered by Mt. Pinatubo, preliminary estimates have placed the rehabilitation and development cost at P [Philippine Pesos] 10 billion.

The government is thinking of asking the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Program to finance the rehabilitation of the two bases.

Garrucho said that Subic, in particular, is "very marketable" because of its excellent maritime facilities which include ship-repair and drydock facilities, a container and transshipment port, as well as an oil depot capable of storing about 2.4 million barrels of oil.

The naval base also has warehouse-like facilities where light industries such as garments and furniture-making can immediately locate, he added.

To promote investment opportunities in the baselands, the Department of Trade and Industry will send investment missions to key American cities such as New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago this April, Garrucho disclosed.

Meanwhile, National Development Company general manager Jose Mari Trenas said that a full-blown feasibility study on the conversion of a 550-hectare portion of Clark into an industrial estate has to be undertaken to enable the government to "sell" that area to prospective foreign and local investors.

The Legislative Executive Bases Council [LEBC] two years ago conducted a feasibility study on the alternative use of the baselands. Under the LEBC's conversion plan, Clark was to be converted into a civil aviation complex [CAC] cum industrial estate housing such high-value industries as precision electronics, semi-conductors and computer parts.

Trenas, however, said that LEBC's original proposal may not be feasible anymore in view of the massive damage wrought by Mt. Pinatubo on the base's facilities.

"The CAC may have to be shelved and the proposed industry mix changed to less dust-sensitive industries such as garments, furniture and handicrafts," he explained.

The Clark runway, for instance, remains under six inches of ashfall and is not operational anymore, making the proposed aviation complex not viable.

Trenas proposed that a new feasibility study for Clark, which would cost an estimated $3 million, be conducted immediately.

Vietnamese Prime Minister To Visit Next Month

HK1501131892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan 15 (AFP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet is to visit the Philippines next month for talks with President Corazon Aquino, the foreign department here said Wednesday.

Kiet, who will be here on February 26-28, is expected to sign an agreement for the creation of a joint economic commission to oversee trade relations between Hanoi and Manila.

He is to reiterate Vietnam's bid to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), department official Jose Morales said.

The official also said that Vietnam also wanted to sign an agreement on merchant shipping and another on investment promotion.

Morales said Manila wanted Hanoi's bid for ASEAN membership to be discussed in the summit of member nations Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and that Manila would abide by the "consensus decision."

The summit is scheduled in Singapore on January 27-28.

Kiet has recently visited Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore and is going to Malaysia on Monday.

To Discuss Refugees

HK1601095092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 16 Jan 92

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet is scheduled to arrive in the Philippines next month to discuss the orderly repatriation of thousands of Vietnamese refugees presently held at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center. According to the Vietnamese Embassy in Manila, the Vietnamese Government is willing to accept the return of its nationals who escaped the country during its turbulent times and eventually ended up in the Philippines. The Vietnamese Government has also offered to give financial incentives to those who agree to repatriation.

Many of the refugees who fled Vietnam in wooden boats ended up in different countries throughout Asia, especially the Philippines. With the help of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the refugee processing centers in the Philippines were built to hold the Vietnamese refugees while they await the decision on their country of final destination.

At present, there are around 3,000 refugees still under the care of the Philippine Refugee Processing Center. The center is funded by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Aquino To Attend Singapore ASEAN Summit

HK1601053792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Jan 92 p 2

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] President Aquino will leave for Singapore on Jan. 26 to attend the summit meeting of heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Although the meeting will be taking up for the first time the issue of regional security, officials yesterday said it is highly unlikely that the organization would favor the formation of a regional military alliance to fill the vacuum expected to be left by the United States when it withdraws from Subic Naval Base within the year.

Also topping the summit's agenda are the strengthening of intra Asean economic cooperation to meet the challenges posed by the European common market and the economic alliance being formed by Northern American countries; improving the structure and mechanism of Asean, particularly its secretariat; and definition of the scope and mechanism of Asean's external relations with third countries and other international organizations.

Mrs. Aquino will be staying in Singapore for four days. She will conduct one-on-one talks with other heads of state, particularly Singapore's Goh Chok Tong, Indonesian President Suharto, and Brunei's Sultan Bolkiah.

The President will be accompanied on her trip by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, Trade Secretary Peter Garrucho, Cabinet Secretary Aniceto Sobrepeffa, Trade Undersecretary Lilia Bautista, Assistant Foreign Secretary Romualdo Ongo, Ambassador Delia Albert, and the President's daughter, Ma. Aurora "Pinky" Abellada.

In a briefing, Ambassador Ong, head of the foreign affairs department's Asia-Pacific desk, said concern for regional security in the wake of Japan's increasing military role, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Southeast Asia, prompted the organization to take the unprecedented step of putting the item on its agenda.

Another issue to be taken up in the summit would be the formation of a National Free Trade Area, an initiative launched by the Philippines. Also to be discussed are Indonesia's proposal for a preferential tariff scheme and Malaysia's East Asian Economic caucus.

Despite the inclusion of regional security in Asean's agenda, Ong said he does not think this would lead to the formation of a military alliance.

Bataan Nuclear Plant Debt Validated

HK1601055192 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Jan 92 p 3

[By Cris Larano]

[Text] The Joint Executive-Legislative Debt Council yesterday voted behind closed-doors to include debt notes for the mothballed nuclear power plant among the obligations to be guaranteed by the country to secure fresh loans from creditors.

The debt council's decision virtually "legitimized" the loan used for the construction of the Bataan nuclear plant, alleged to have been contracted fraudulently by the Marcos administration.

The motion to include the BNPP [Bataan Nuclear Power Plant] debt papers in the forthcoming negotiations with commercial banks was made by Rep. Victorico Chaves (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Misamis Oriental). The decision of the debt council needs President Aquino's approval.

Senate Majority Floorleader Alberto Romulo (LDP) and Senators Teofisto Guingona (LP [Liberal Party]) and Rene Saguisag (LP), all members of the debt council and oppositors of the scheme, were not present at yesterday's debt council meeting.

The 620-megawatt nuclear power plant in Morong, Bataan was built at a staggering cost of $2.2 billion but was never used because of safety and structural defects.

Despite its decision to mothball the nuclear power plant, the Aquino administration continues to pay the loans and interest. This year, P [Philippine Peso] 6.6 billion was earmarked for payment of the BNPP loan.

Securitization of about $350 million of nuclear plant debt notes, through the issuance of corresponding government guaranteed bonds, was among the conditionalities set by commercial banks for the release of $200 million in new money.

Senators, however, opposed the financing scheme and passed a resolution enjoining the debt council to defer action on the securitization plan until after two of the chamber's committees complete investigations of the scheme.

The committee on economic affairs and the Blue Ribbon committee are looking into the effects of the securitization plan on the case filed by the National Power Corp. against Westinghouse, builder of the nuclear plant, and the legality of the measure.

Freedom from Debt Coalition [FDC], a multi-sectoral group advocating repudiation of fraud-tainted debts, called on the debt council to reconsider its decision and urged it to wait for the recommendations of the Senate panels.

"It should be noted that the TPIFDC (debt council) as a body has made no serious inquiries nor investigations that would shed light on this policy debate," FDC said in a statement.

"It is highly irregular and ironic that this body (debt council) whose mandate is to expand public discussion on the debt issue should now ignore and close the door to these public consultations on a most problematic issue," it said.

Senate President Neptali Gonzales (LDP) criticized the debt council's decision which he said will "legitimize the nuclear plant debt."

Imelda Willing To Enter Race as Running Mate

HK1501020892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Former First Lady Imelda Marcos says she is prepared to sacrifice her presidential plans and become the running mate of former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco or Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. This was announced by Mrs. Marcos after she was accepted as a member of the Nacionalista Party [NP]. She took over the party membership of former Senator Arturo Tolentino, president of the NP-Enrile Wing. Tolentino said he was reactivating Mrs. Marcos' membership in the party. She was a member in 1965 when her husband, the late President Marcos, won the presidential election.

Meanwhile former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco said he will be able to bring about a reconciliation between his cousin, President Aquino, and former First Lady Imelda Marcos. He said he is the only one, among all the country's presidential aspirants, who could bring President Aquino and Mrs. Marcos together. He emphasized that he could use his relationship with the two widows to pull this off.

Armed Forces Get Additional Allowances

HK1601042392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 16 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] Members of the Armed Forces will get additional allowances totaling P [Philippine pesos] 1 billion this year, Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday.

Abadia said President Aquino gave the Department of Budget and Management the go signal to increase allowances of soldiers after she met recently with 14 top generals.

However, the raise approved by the President was P2 billion short of what the military was expecting.

Rep. Democrito Plaza of Agusan del Sur earlier filed a bill proposing that the 165,000-strong AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] be allocated a P3.2-billion budget to cover increases in the allowances of soldiers.

Abadia said Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon had explained that the government cannot afford to give more than P1 billion in additional allowances to the AFP.

Thailand

Japan's Opposition To Block Peacekeeping Bill

OW1601114592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Bangkok, Jan. 16 KYODO—The leader of Japan's largest opposition party said in Bangkok on Thursday that his party will block the passage of a government-proposed bill allowing Japanese military personnel to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [SDP], was discussing Japan's domestic political affairs in a meeting with Japanese reporters. Tanabe was currently on the last leg of an eight-day trip, which already has taken him to China and Cambodia.

Tanabe said the leading opposition party will persistently oppose the proposed participation of the Self-Defense Forces in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Japan should concentrate on making civilian contributions to the rebuilding of the war-devastated Cambodia, Tanabe said.

The House of Councillors voted late last month to carry over discussions on the peacekeeping operations bill to the next Diet session, which starts January 24. The bill has been passed by the more powerful House of Representatives.

Tanabe said the SDP will demand that the Diet call in witnesses in the upcoming session to look into the current bribery scandal involving former state minister Fumio Abe and the 1988-1989 Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal involving Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Abe, who was regarded as a close ally of Miyazawa, was arrested Monday on suspicion of taking 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Corp., a now defunct steel frame maker.

Khmer Rouge Hand Over Captured SRV Soldier

BK1601062592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0544 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Jan 16 (AFP)—A Vietnamese captured earlier this month by Cambodian guerrillas has been handed over to the Thai military, well informed sources in this Thai border town said Thursday.

A senior official of the Khmer Rouge, the guerrilla group which captured the man said he was a spy. But he could equally be a deserter or a person seeking resettlement in a third country, said the sources who requested anonimity.

Earlier this week Sam Rath, Khmer Rouge leader of a refugee camp under his faction's control, told reporters the Vietnamese was a spy captured early this month in Cambodia's northwestern Battambang province.

He had been handed over to the Displaced Persons' Protection Unit (DPPU), a Thai para-military force in charge of Cambodian refugee camps on Thailand's border with Cambodia, Sam Rath said. The prisoner was now no longer held by the DPPU but by an infantry unit deployed at the border, well informed sources said. They declined to identify him.

The Khmer Rouge, the main guerrilla force which fought Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government in the Cambodia war, has repeatedly claimed Vietnamese troops continued to fight with government forces after Hanoi's announcement that its expeditionary corps had been pulled out in September 1989.

The guerrilla group has insisted that Hanoi soldiers were still in action in Cambodia after the Paris peace treaty which formally ended the war last October.

Khmer Rouge radio said another Vietnamese soldier, a lieutenant, had been caught in early December by guerrillas while on a spying mission in the central Cambodian province of Kompong Thom.

Crown Prince to Make State Visit to Bangladesh

BK1501021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon will pay a six-day state visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of the Bangladesh government, the Bureau of the Royal Household said yesterday.

The Royal state visit will strengthen relations and promote understanding and friendship between people of the two countries, the bureau said.

HRH the Crown Prince will visit several important cities and observe many aspects of national development, for example in the military and industrial areas. He will visit several places of religion, history and culture.

He will have dinner with the president and meet the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and will grant an audience to Thais living in Bangladesh.

He is scheduled to leave Bangkok tomorrow afternoon and to return on January 21, the bureau said.

Vietnam

U.S. Criticized on POW-MIA Issue

BK1601051592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Commentary by Duong Quang Minh: "Another Clumsy Play Has Ended"]

[Text] On 13 January, a spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department said: The United States has put an end to an investigation into reports that U.S. servicemen captured during the Vietnam war had been moved to the former Soviet Union. She said: U.S. Embassy officials in Moscow did conduct an investigation but could not find any evidence to substantiate these reports. She also said: The U.S. State Department has considered these cases as closed unless new evidence is found.

Thus, another play about the so-called U.S. prisoners-of-war being alive in Vietnam or moved from Vietnam to other countries has ended and the results of this play are similar to those in the past, that is to say, they have all been quickly rejected by broad segments of the public.

The people who fabricated this story have had their phony and deceitful nature laid bare even more clearly. Vietnam's assertion that no U.S. prisoners-of-war were either still alive in Vietnam or moved to other countries has gained more credit.

It is interesting to note that those who rejected reports about U.S. servicemen still alive in Vietnam are representatives of many authoritative U.S. agencies responsible for the settlement of the POW and MIA issue.

About six months ago, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney said: There is no sound evidence that U.S. servicemen are being detained in Vietnam. All the photos brought forward were doctored. Mr. Vessey, a special envoy of U.S. President Bush, also said: There is no evidence to conclude that U.S. POWs are still alive in Southeast Asia.

This time, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, also admitted that it had no documentation of a CIA agent captured during the war in South Vietnam having been interrogated by Soviet intelligence agents in 1978. A CIA agent was captured in South Vietnam in 1968 and was returned to the United States in March 1973. Another CIA agent was also captured in South Vietnam in April 1975 and was freed in October 1975.

The play about U.S. POWs still alive either in Vietnam or in the former Soviet Union has ended. Yet, the public still raises these questions: Who staged this play? What are their motives?

First of all, these include the very people who still cling to an outdated hostile policy toward Vietnam. They have tried by all means to hamper the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam and henceforth, impede the trend toward business cooperation with Vietnam that many business people worldwide, including many U.S. allies, have followed. As recently as 7 January, in a U.S. televised interview, former U.S. President Nixon repeated the same old argument that Vietnam has committed a series of wrongful deeds and that Vietnam knows more than what it said about the fate of 2,000 or more U.S. POWs listed as missing in Indochina. He even requested that the United States not establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam until after the latter changes its policy.

Another group of people have deliberately invented a POW-and-MIA story in a bid to manifest their sordid scheme aimed at extorting money from families of U.S. servicemen missing in the Indochina war and from agencies responsible for the POW-and-MIA issue. In an editorial entitled: A Dark Scheme Aimed at Extorting Money Through the MIA issue, the U.S. paper THE NEW YORK TIMES said: Individuals working for cruel industries in the United States and Southeast Asia have availed themselves of the flickering hope of families of U.S. servicemen missing in action to advertise for their names and to collect money through the establishment of MIA funds. The paper also pointed out: The business of collecting money in the name of missing personnel is very lucrative. Many people living in exile in the United States have often publicized falsified documents with questions like: Don't you know that in only a few weeks we can bring home former servicemen who are still alive? We need at least $27,000.

Vietnam's unswerving stance is that no U.S. serviceman is still alive in Vietnam and that Vietnam has done all it can to cooperate with the United States in the settlement of the POW and MIA issue. Like it or not, U.S. political circles have recognized Vietnam's goodwill attitude. (Usted), a research specialist of the intelligency agency under the U.S. Defense Department on assignment at the Hanoi-based MIA office, said: I must admit that Vietnam has been very enthusiastic in this matter. I cannot expect Vietnam to do anything beyond that point.

We have also ascertained that the POW and MIA issue is a humanitarian one. Vietnam is determined not to accept any attempts to attach political strings to this

issue. All dark schemes aimed at distorting the truth and denying Vietnam's goodwill attitude as well as at using the POW and MIA issue to serve individual interests will be condemned by the public.

Reportage on Visit of Thai Prime Minister Anan

Prime Minister Arrives

BK1501064592 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.15—The prime minister of Thailand, Mr. Anan Panyarachun, arrives in Hanoi this morning for an official visit at the invitation of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet. Mr. Anan, the first Thai prime minister to ever visit Vietnam, is accompanied by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, minister attached to the prime minister's office Phaichit Uathawikun, industry minister Sippanon Ketuthat, and many other senior government officials.

Received by Vo Chi Cong

BK1501164092 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 15—State Council President Vo Chi Cong this afternoon received Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his entourage, who arrived here this morning for a three-day official visit to Vietnam.

President Vo Chi Cong warmly welcomed the Thai prime minister and other distinguished guests' visit which, he said, has a very important significance, creating a new step of development in the Vietnam-Thailand relations in the stage of peace and friendship for the prosperity of each country, and for peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

President Vo Chi Cong and Prime Minister Anan panyarachun shared the view that at present there are favourable conditions to leave the past behind, to look to the future and broaden cooperation. They also held that further strengthening the bilateral relations in various fields constitutes one of the key factors for building mutual trust and understanding.

President Vo Chi Cong asked the Thai prime minister to convey his invitation to the Thai King and members of the royal family to visit Vietnam.

Received by Vo Van Kiet

BK1501145092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] This afternoon, 15 January, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet cordially received at his office the visiting Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his entourage.

Also attending the reception were Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs; Tran Xuan Giao, head of the Council of Ministers Office.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people, welcomed the Thai prime minister and his entourage, describing his visit as an important event in the relations between the two countries. The chairman noted with joy the new development in the friendly and cooperative relations between the two nations, especially since his recent visit to Thailand. Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed the wish for further development of the friendship, cooperation, and mutual trust between the two nations. The Chairman also wished the Thai prime minister every success in his visit to Vietnam.

Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun thanked Chairman Vo Van Kiet for his warm, solemn welcome extended to him and his entourage. He said that his visit to Vietnam this time, as well as Chairman Vo Van Kiet's recent visit to Thailand—the first by the two prime ministers since the normalization of the Thai-Vietnamese relations—mark a new chapter of mutual understanding between the two nations. The Thai prime minister expressed the firm belief that his visit would contribute to further strengthening and developing the cooperative relations between the two countries.

Thai ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chaiyanam was present at the reception.

Vo Van Kiet Speech at Banquet

BK1501160592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Jan 91

["Text" of Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet's speech at 15 January Hanoi banquet in honor of Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun; distinguished Thai guests and Vietnamese friends: On behalf of the government and people of Vietnam, I warmly welcome His Excellency Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and other distinguished Thai guests now on an official visit to our country and who have brought our Vietnamese people the friendly sentiments of the Thai people. As for me, I am very glad for this chance to meet again his excellency, the prime minister, who now has become our close friend, and to return the hospitality he reserved for us during our visit to Thailand.

We highly value your visit to Vietnam as this is the first time in history that the leader of our neighboring Thailand has paid an official visit to our country. This fact itself shows that a new era has opened in Thai-Vietnamese ties, as you have often said.

Our meeting takes place only three months after a previous one, showing that the friendship and cooperation between our two countries have developed at a new pace, on a wider scale, and in a deeper dimension. Three months are a short period of time. Yet, during these

months, Vietnamese-Thai relations have undergone positive changes. Contacts between representatives of various sectors and echelons have been regular. This has contributed to increasing mutual understanding and have opened up prospects for increased cooperation in various domains. The most recent was the visit of General Suchinda, supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand, to Vietnam.

Following those treaties and agreements reached during our Thailand visit in October 1991 and thanks to the efforts of both sides, we have gone ahead with exchanging views and achieving cooperation on various new domains.

I am firmly convinced that this meeting will generate a new momentum to spur our friendship and long-term cooperation for the prosperity of each country.

Also, over the past three months, many major and profound developments have taken place in the world and in Southeast Asia. In the region, the trend towards peaceful cooperation has been on the increase. The Paris agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue has been signed, thus opening up prospects for peace, national concord, and national reconciliation for the Cambodian people and for stability in the region. Ties between Vietnam and countries in the Southeast Asian and Asia-Pacific region as well as between Vietnam and many others countries are being improved considerably. Against this background, I hope our meeting will be a good opportunity to exchange views on measures that will contribute to regional cooperation.

Your Excellency the prime minister: We are really pleased with the results of those extensive exchanges of views between us today. In a constructive spirit of frankness and mutual understanding, we have had wide agreedment on many aspects of bilateral cooperation. I am firmly convinced your excellency's visit will conclude with fine success, thus raising Thai-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation to a new level of development.

With the goodwill, confidence, and determination of both sides, it is certain that we will be able to head for a new horizon with our relations increasingly bearing fruit.

We have just entered the New Year and while Vietnam's traditional new year festival is approaching, I sincerely wish your excellency, the prime minister, and all distinguished Thai guests good health and happiness. I wish His Majesty the King Phumiphon Adunyadet and the royal family good health. I wish His Excellency Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong good health. May the friendship and multifaceted cooperation between Vietnam and Thailand be increasingly consolidated and developed. I wish all those present good health.

Thai Prime Minister's Reply

BK1501160792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Jan 92

["Text" of Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's reply speech at the banquet held in his honor by Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet in Hanoi on 15 January—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Chairman Vo Van Kiet, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I sincerely thank and appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in Vietnam. This is an honor and a gratitude to me, the first Thai Prime Minister, to visit this beautiful country since the establishment of diplomatic ties between our countries in 1976—an event I witnessed myself.

My visit to Vietnam is made after the recent successful visit by your excellency to Thailand and other ASEAN countries. During our historic meeting in Bangkok, I was very pleased to note the existence of mutual trust between our two peoples and nations. As a result, I am very glad for the opportunity today to continue my talks with your excellency. I believe our talks will bear fruitful results and will contribute to creating a firmer foundation in the new stage of Thai-Vietnamese ties based on mutual understanding and cooperation for the common interests of our two peoples.

Your Excellency, the friendly and frank talks on various issues this afternoon have created a better understanding on both country's positions and have opened up a wide range of areas for cooperation in the future. I am pleased to note that in less than three months, our common efforts to strengthen relations have brought about concrete and meaningful results. A number of important agreements have been signed or will be finalized in the near future. These agreements; the protocol on supplementing the 1978 agreement on commerce, economic, and technical cooperation which will be signed by our two ministers tomorrow, and the new proposals on the various aspects of our cooperation that we have agreed to explore further, are clear manifestations of the new stage in our relations.

Your Excellency, I firmly believe the constructive cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam can positively contribute to the peace and new prosperity in Southeast Asia. In this context, I believe that cooperation and mutual economic assistance are the most important and long-lasting factors contributing to strengthening our close ties and that among nations in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam is an important country in this region. We in Thailand firmly believe that efforts to strengthen cooperation between Southeast Asian nations will help Vietnam fulfill its role in the region as well as in the international community.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, in this spirit, I wish Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong and Chairman Vo Van Kiet good health and success. I wish the friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and nations will last forever.

Anan Reports on Talks

BK1501150192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his party, including Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin; Industry Minister Sippanon Ketuthat; Phaichit Uathawikun, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; Phisit Salikhup, Deputy Defense Minister Air Chief Marshal; Anan Kalintha, Deputy Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal; and a large number of businessmen from the private sector, arrived at Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi, Vietnam, at 1030 today. The prime minister and his delegation proceeded to the Office of the Chairman of the Council of State for a formal welcoming ceremony presided by Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, escorted by the Vietnamese prime minister, reviewed the guard of honor.

At 1400, the prime minister again went to the Office of the Chairman of the Council of State for talks with Vo Van Kiet in the presence of the foreign ministers of both countries. The meeting lasted about an hour. After that, Prime Minister Anan reported to newsmen that the Vietnamese Government approved Thailand's request to open a consulate in Ho Chi Minh City to facilitate Thai businessmen. It also approved the opening of Thai commercial banks in Ho Chi Minh City. On the fishing issue, the prime minister said he raised that as a major topic in talks with Vietnamese leaders.

[Begin recording] [Anan in progress] On the fishing issue, the central government [Vietnam] needs more consultations with the local authorities. At this stage, the Vietnamese Government believes it would be able to convince the local authorities to better understand the situation and thus pave the way for an agreement with the Thai Government in the future. I still believe that there will be improvement in this matter. We may have to wait for a few more months. We also exchanged views on future cooperation, possibly in oil and gas exploration and development, since Thailand is interested in energy development. We look to future cooperation, in 10 or 20 years time from now, for a common benefit of both countries. [end recording]

The prime minister said at least three cooperation agreements will be signed by both countries tomorrow.

Anan Urges U.S. To Drop Trade Embargo

BK1601010392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jan 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Thailand wants Vietnam and the United States to normalise their relations because both are "good friends," Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said in Hanoi yesterday.

"As long as one remains obsessed with the past and mistrusts, there can be no progress. So the question is how these two countries can forget about the past and start anew," he told reporters after meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet for an hour at the Presidential Palace.

The Prime Minister and a 53-member delegation began an official visit to Vietnam yesterday.

"There are obstacles (to Vietnam-US normalisation) but we did not talk about them. All Thailand wants is to see these two countries conduct normal economic relations," the Premier said.

Vietnam belongs to this dynamic region, and it is in Washington's interest to develop relations with Vietnam, he added.

On Thai-Vietnamese ties, Mr Anan welcomed Vietnam's consent for Thailand to set up a consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, the centre of commerce in the south.

Vietnam's gesture was conveyed to the Thai leader yesterday.

Previously, Vietnam insisted that the setting up of the consulate had to be announced after Vietnam had settled on a site for its consulate in Thailand. But Hanoi agreed to let Thailand go ahead with its plan while it takes more time to consider a site in Thailand.

Also, the State Bank of Vietnam yesterday granted permission for the Bangkok Bank to open a branch in Ho Chi Minh City.

Bank president Mr Chatri Sophonpanit received the approval from Mr Nguyen Cong Hai, director of the State Bank's International Department, at a brief ceremony witnessed by the Thai and Vietnamese prime ministers.

Mr Chatri, who is accompanying the Prime Minister, said he is very pleased and the Bank would accelerate work on the branch so it can open as soon as possible.

Mr Anan said Thai Military Bank, which opened a representative office in Ho Chi Minh City two years ago, will also soon be granted permission for a branch.

Bangkok Bank will become the first Thai bank to open a branch in Vietnam.

The Premier announced that Thailand has laid the groundwork for bilateral cooperation with Vietnam. His delegation of Cabinet ministers and members of the private sector held talks with their Vietnamese counterparts on energy, investment and trade.

"I am gratified to note that during a period of less than three months, our efforts to strengthen our relations have borne significant results," the Premier said in a speech at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Mr Anan said he and his Vietnamese counterpart had built up a personal rapport when they met in Bangkok last October, and the two of them agreed on many issues, especially economic development.

The joint fishery agreement had failed to materialise this time, he said, but he was confident that the remaining obstacles will be resolved over the next two or three months.

Thailand is trying to pursue this agreement and hopes that Hanoi will communicate with the local authorities to bring about an understanding which will eventually lead to its conclusion," he said.

In explaining why the signing of the pact had to be put off, Vietnam informed Mr Anan that the delay was also "unexpected" in Hanoi. Deputy Thai Agriculture Minister At Taolanon had initialled the agreement last Wednesday in Hanoi in preparation for the Prime Minister's visit.

It is believed that authorities in the southern coastal provinces still hold strong reservations over the pact.

The Prime Minister said that Thailand gives high priority to the livelihood of Thai fishermen, some of whom have been arrested and detained for allegedly trespassing on Vietnam's territorial waters.

Thailand said the agreement would help resolve the problem and help Vietnam modernise its fishing industry.

The Prime Minister added that there is no question about cooperation at the top between both sides, but it may take more time for this spirit to filter down to the local level.

Mr Anan said that throughout the discussions with the Vietnamese leader "never had the topic of security or suspicions arisen.'

"In this region, we are talking about peace, prosperity, development and how to cooperate to achieve those ends," he said.

Leaders Talk With Thai Counterparts

BK1501165792 Hanoi VNA in English 1553 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 15—Talks were held at the presidential palace here this afternoon between a delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and a visiting delegation of the Thai Government led by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

Also taking part in the talks were on the Vietnamese side, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Nguyen Cong Tan, head of the Office of the Council of Ministers Tran Xuan Gia, head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan, and Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung.

On the Thai side were Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, Industry Minister Sippanon Ketuthat, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Paichit Uathawikun, and Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chaiyanam.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet warmly welcomed Prime Minister Anan on his official visit to Vietnam—the first of its kind by a head of the Thai Government since the two countries established diplomatic relations. The visit, he said, opens opens up a new era - that of development in (word indistinct) and in scale of the Vietnam-Thailand relations for the two people's interests, and for peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

At the talks, the two sides reviewed agreemenis reached after Chairman Vo Van Kiet's visit to Thailand in October 1991. They noted with satisfaction rapid progress in the relations between the two countries especially recent meetings between representatives of various branches and at different levels, thus contributing to strengthening mutual understanding, and creating possibilities of cooperation in various fields. They decided to sign a supplementary protocol, amend the agreement on trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation signed in 1978. They also agreed to continue to hold talks on agreements on avoidance of double taxation, on cooperation in aquatic products research, tourism, post, and on supplement to the maritime agreement. The two sides also agreed on the setting up of consulates generals in the two counmtries.

The two sides noted that the cooperation in the region is taking the right direction along path for the benefit of development. Vietnam and Thailand can cooperate to contribute to turning Southeast Asia into a region of peace, friendship, and cooperation. The two sides held that the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia has given an opportunity to the Cambodian people to achieve national reconciliation and concord, and build a Southeast Asia of peace and siability.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, cooperation, mutual understanding and mutual respect.

Joint Communique Issued

BK1601111792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The Thai delegation on Thursday left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City. A joint communique on the visit was released. Following is excerpt from the Vietnam-Thai joint communique:

With a view to extending economic, trade, and scientific cooperation between the two countries in the new era of relations, the two sides concluded a protocol amending the 1978 agreement on trade, economic and technical cooperation.

The two sides agreed to exert all efforts toward the early conclusion of the agreement on fishery cooperation. They also agreed to continue negotiations to conclude the agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, the agreement on tourism cooperation, and the protocol amending the agreement on commercial maritime navigation at the earliest possible time.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the progress made in the establishment of a joint technical committee to further study the prospects for cooperation in the natural gas industry.

The two sides also agreed to further expand the cooperation in the fields of culture, education, science and technology, personnel training, and sports so as to deepen the friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

The Vietnamese side welcomed a Thailand's decision to proceed with the establishment of the Royal Thai Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City.

The Thai side welcomed Vietnam's decision to establish its consulate general in Thailand.

Both sides further agreed to explore new avenues and approaches to strengthen economic relations of the two countries. In this regard, the Thailand side offered a long-term credit in the amount of 150 million baht to the government of the Soviet Republic of Vietnam for the purchase of goods and services from Thailand.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that regional cooperation in Southeast Asia is developing in a right direction, focusing on the promotion of economic development.

The two sides fully believe that closer Vietnam-Thailand cooperation would contribute positively to making Southeast Asia into a community of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

The two sides reiterated their belief that the strengthening of cooperation among the countries in the Southeast Asian region would be consistent with the trend toward peaceful and constructive relations among nations at a global level and would insure Vietnam's rightful role in the international community.

The Vietnamese side highly appreciated the support extended by Thailand and other Asian countries for Vietnam's acception to the 1976 treaty of amity and cooperation which will pave the way for Vietnam's greater participation in the process of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The two sides were of the view that the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia has provided an unprecedented opportunity for the building of a new Southeast Asia.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the full implementation of the Paris agreement and their support for the process of national reconciliation and unity among all the Cambodian parties.

The two sides expressed their full support for the communique of the SNC [Supreme National Council of Cambodia] issued after its 30 December 1991 meeting in Phnom Penh.

Thai Official Denied Access to Cam Ranh

PM1501114392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "No Permission To Visit Cam Ranh. Thai Armed Forces Chief In Vietnam"]

[Excerpts] Hanoi—Aside from its protocol value, the first visit to Vietnam by General Suchinda Khraprayun, Thai Armed Forces commander in chief, had great symbolic importance. It drew a line, as it were, under the long period of distrust and, to all intents and purposes, confrontation between the two biggest armies in the region—Vietnamese and Thai. [passage omitted]

What interested journalists most of all was other details of the visit, which made a special imprint on the entire course of it. Everyone was waiting and wondering whether General Khraprayun would get the go-ahead from his Vietnamese colleagues to visit the Cam Ranh military base, where there are ships of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Pacific Fleet. It was known before the visit that he would be making this request. In exchange for permission Khraprayun brought with him to Hanoi an invitation to the Vietnamese People's Army leadership to attend the U.S.-Thai "Cobra Gold" joint maneuvers in the Gulf of Siam and on the coast of Thailand. He said that he would like to see Cam Ranh because, according to Bangkok's official doctrine, it is on the list of facilities that are a threat to Thailand's security.

On hearing this request, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam told the commander that the Vietnamese leadership considers it advisable to concentrate attention on matters of a more peaceful character and it declines the offer of a trip to the maneuvers. Permission to visit Cam Ranh was also refused in a similarly courteous manner.

Perhaps, the paper THE NATION writes, the excursion to Cam Ranh will take place in the future, when it becomes a "commercial port." This prospect is already being thoroughly studied by the press in the light of changing relations between Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, on whose behalf an agreement was signed earlier, and also in the light of the quest for a new haven for the U.S. 7th Fleet. Cam Ranh features here—hypothetically, it is true—alongside Singapore.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Swedish Development Chairman

BK1401155992 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 14—Chairman Vo Van Kiet of the Council of Ministers received at the presidential palace here this afternoon Mr. Borje Ljunggren, deputy director general of the Swedish International Developement Authority (SIDA).

The Swedish official has been in Vietnam to assess the implementation of the cooperation development plan between the two countries for the 1991-1992 period, and prepare new programmes for the 1992-1993 and 1993-1994 periods.

Mr. Ljunggren informed the Vietnamese chairman of Sweden's aid programme for Vietnam in the 1992-1993 fiscal year. In the program, Sweden will continue to assist Vietnam in the fields of forestry, energy and public health, and it will broaden aid to other fields such as export, banking, economic management and personnel training. He reaffirmed that in bilateral economic cooperation, Sweden will give priority to projects in service of Vietnam's current renovation process. Mr. Borje Ljunggren specially praised Vietnam's achievements in educational and public health development.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people, thanked the Swedish Government and people for their past as well as present effective assistance to Vietnam. He attributed Vietnam's achievements in the renovation process in recent years to its government's correct orientation and the people's support, as well as to the assistance of friendly countries including Sweden. He stressed that the Vietnamese people never forget the Swedish Government and people's assistance especially in diffcult stages.

Introducing Vietnam's present external policies, Chairman Kiet reiterated that it wants to be friend of all countries without political discrimination and on the basis of equality, mutual benefits and respect for each other's sovereignty.

Aid To Help Cooperation Projects

BK1501165192 Hanoi VNA in English 1555 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 15—Sweden has decided to grant 450 million kronor as aid to Vietnam in the 1992-94 fiscal years to implement cooperation projects in the forestry, energy and public health sectors and in support of export, banking, economic management and other areas.

This was stated in a cooperation document signed here today by Nguyen Van Hung, member of the State Planning Committee, and Borje Ljungren, deputy director general of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

Trade, Cooperation Agreements Signed With Cuba

BK1501164592 Hanoi VNA in English 1540 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 15—Vietnam and Cuba signed here yesterday a commercial agreement for 1991-95, a protocol on goods exchanges in 1991-92 and a cooperation document.

The signing took place at the end of the 12th session here of the Vietnam-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission for Scientific Technological and Economic Cooperation.

The session was attended by a Cuban Government economic delegation led by Arturo Gusman Pascual, chairman of Cuba's State Committee for Prices, and a Vietnamese Government economic delegation led by Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry.

At the session, the two sides reviewed their commercial, economic, scientific and technical cooperation since the last session, and worked out orientations and methods of cooperation for the 1992-93 period.

During its stay here, the Cuban delegation was separately received by general secretary of party Central Committee Do Muoi and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Khai. The delegation had working sessions with the State Pricing Commission, a number of concerned ministries and branches, and called on some economic establishments.

It left Hanoi today for Ho Chi Minh City.

Cuban Ambassadress to Vietnam Tania Maceira Delgado was present at the above-said events.

EC Funding for Repatriate Projects Viewed

BK1501150992 Hanoi VNA in English 1355 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 15—So far, EC has invested over 1 million US dollars in five projects on job training, credits, hospital and infirmary upgrading, water supply and healthcare in the port city of Haiphong for the reintegration of Vietnamese repatriates.

Nine job training centers have been set up, where 1,059 people (including 302 repatriates) are taught 10 different trades. A total of 1,612 workers (888 repatriates) have got jobs through the credit project. Small projects such as the upgrading of infirmaries and hospitals, water supply, technical investment in new settlements in Tan Vu of An Hai District, Pha Le, and Phuc Le of Thuy Nguyen have neared their completion.

Army's 47th Founding Anniversary Hailed

BK1501140392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Dec 91

[NHAN DAN 21 December editorial: "Be Worthy of the Trust and Love of the Entire Party and People"]

[Text] Over the part 47 years, led and educated by the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh and protected and assisted by the people, our Army has undergone numerous ordeals and sacrifices and fought gallantly to defeat all the aggressors and their lackeys, thereby liberating and defending the country and fulfulling its glorious international duties.

Our party and people take great pride in the heroic Army bearing the honorable title of "Uncle Ho's soldiers." Thoroughly understanding its foremost task as the people's core force in the struggle to defend the country, the party, and the socialsist regime, our Army is always ready to defeat enemies from within and without.

In harmony with the atmosphere of comprehensive renovation throughout the country under the spirit of the resolutions of the Sixth and Seventh Party Congresses, the renovation in the military and national defense domains has undergone important changes recently. The major strategic readjustment, which has basically been completed, has created a rational defensive disposition and formed a network for people's warfare. Meanwhile, defensive zones have been carved out and have yielded initial results. The adjustment and deployment of forces on a national scale have also been carried out.

By consolidating the people's warfare network and all-people national defense system, favorable conditions have been created to reduce the numerical strength of the standing Army.

Being aware of the difficulties of the country in general and the Army in particular, the majority of officers under the personnel reduction category have compiled with the order to reorganize the structure of their units. This shows clearly our military cadres' political responsibility.

Making the Army politically and ideologically firm and strong to serve as the basis for improving its quality and fighting strength is the most important task in the new revolutionary stage. This task must be carried out in combination with the effort to continue renovating party leadership in the people's Armed Forces. This is to ensure that our Army is able to enhance its political awareness and remains firm under all complex circumstances to resolutely defend the socialist Vietnamese fatherland and contribute positively to accelerating the renovation.

As an Army by the people and for the people that has developed revolutionary heroism in fighting in the past as well as in national construction and defense at present, our Army must fulfill its duties as a fighting army, a farming army, and a production army. It must also strive to be worthy of the honorable title "Uncle Ho's soldiers."

The present negative phenomena in society have adversely affected the Army to a certain degree. To preserve and fortify its fine tradition, the Army has striven to overcome shortcomings and to gradually consolidate and strengthen the Army-people relations and participate in social activities in areas where its troops are stationed. It has also coordinated actively with all local party committee and administrative echelons in carrying out propaganda and educational activities among the people to encourage them to participate enthusiastically in the country's renovation.

Combining patriotism closely with the love for socialism and sharpening its intellect and creativity, our Army has satisfactorily defended the country while actively participating in economic development, in the direction of combining national defense with economic work and vice versa.

Faced with the schemes and acts of opposition and sabotage of various hostile forces, carrying out the tasks of building up the Army, consolidating and strengthening the all-people national defense system, and firmly maintaining political security and social order and safety are of supreme significance.

Meanwhile, we must uphold the sense of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance in surmounting all privations and difficulties to resolutely turn our Army into a revolutionary regular, seasoned, and mordern one—a concrete manifestation of the quality of "Uncle Ho's soldiers" in the new revolutionary stage.

Satisfactorily carrying out these tasks means realistically commemorating the VPA's [Vietnamese People's Army] 47th founding anniversary and our all-people national defense festival.